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Country Music

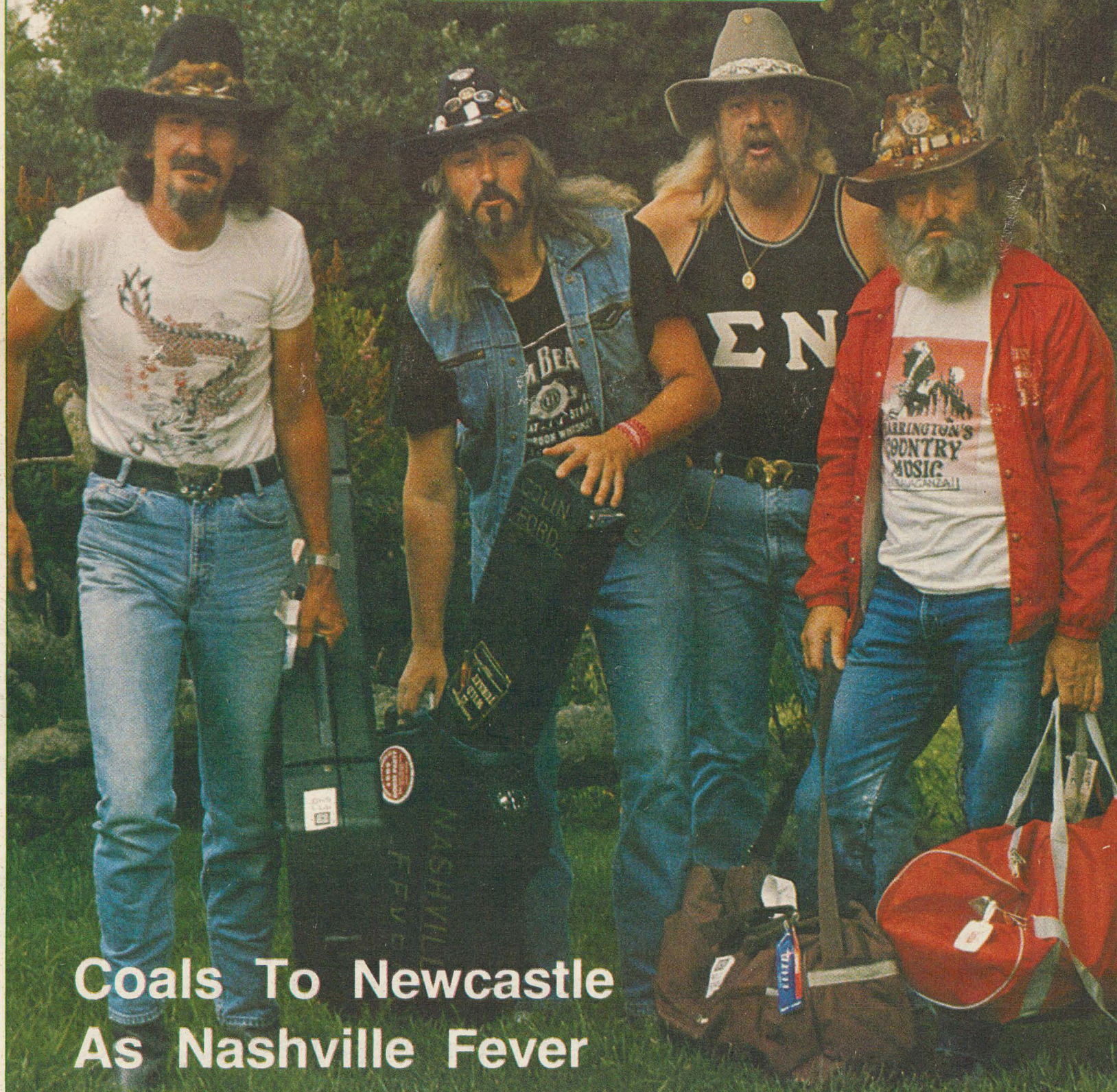
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ROUND UP



Coals To Newcastle
As Nashville Fever
Head For The States

● NEWS ● REVIEWS ● FEATURES ● CLUBS

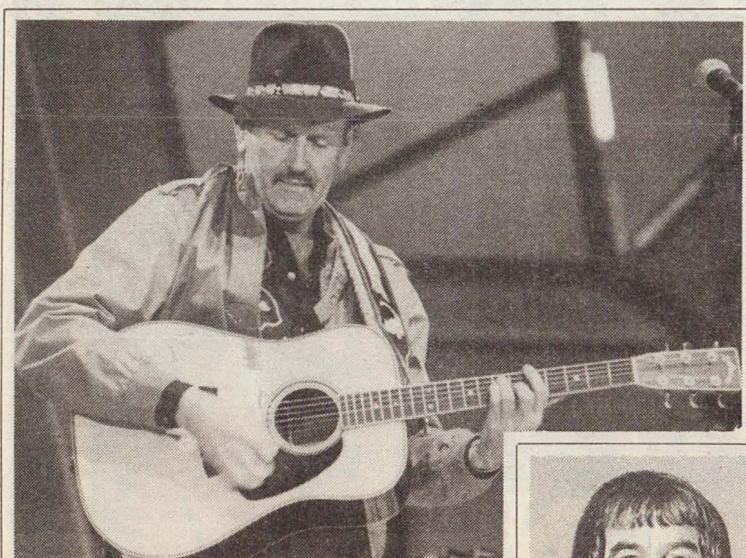


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● The Jim Halsey Company and the Country Music Association jointly announced Halsey will exclusively book and produce the First Annual Country Gold Concert in Kumamoto, Japan, on September 23rd.



by . . . Loudilla, Loretta and Kay Johnson

● Roger Miller, The Wagoneers, Michael Johnson, Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Hank Thompson, Wanda Jackson and the clogging duo Pride Of America will join with Japan's Charlie Nagatani and his band, The Western Cannonballs in concert at Kumamoto's Aspecta, the world's largest outdoor stage. This will be 3,000 yen which is about \$20. This is an extremely low cost since the average jazz festival ticket is about \$50 and hotel dinner shows featuring US country acts run about \$250 and up. The concert is being publicised in Japanese newspapers and on radio and television. Organisers are already making plans to have a Country Gold concert each year in Japan.

● American Airlines will feature an all Oak Ridge Boys audio programme on every headset equipped flight during the upcoming September-October cycle. By listening to the Oaks on the AA country channel during this period, you will learn how to become eligible to enter the American Dreams contest. Contest rules will also be displayed in the airline's American Way magazine during that period. Contestants will have a chance to win one of 200 cassettes, courtesy of MCA Records. Three grand prize winners, plus a guest each, will fly to Las Vegas to join the Oaks during their January 19th-21st stint at Bally's Casino Resort.



Patty Loveless

● Patty Loveless has garnered six nominations in five categories of balloting for the 1989 Country Music Association Awards. Patty is in the running for both Female Vocalist and the Horizon Awards as well as Single of the Year ('Don't Toss Us Away'), Album of the Year ('Honky Tonk Angel') and two entries for Song of the Year ('Don't Toss Us Away' and her first number one single across the board, 'Timber I'm Falling').

● Loretta Lynn will be seen in multiple appearances on The Nashville Network in coming weeks. Her latest USO Celebrity Tour, filmed during her visit with US soldiers based in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea, will be telecast on September 2nd and 7th. She will appear in the Mike Snider-hosted special to be filmed at the Erie Country Fair in Pennsylvania, along with Conway Twitty and George Jones and participate in the hour-long specials documenting Patsy Cline (September 8th and 9th) and Ernest Tubb (September 6th and 9th).

● ARTISTS ON THE MOVE: Dottie West to Bobby Roberts Entertainment for world-wide representation. . . . Rebecca Holden, the talented actress who has become familiar as the diabolical Elena on General Hospital and as the long-legged beauty on the prime time series, Knight Rider, has signed with TRA-Star Records in Nashville and is set to fulfill her life-long dream of becoming a country music entertainer. . . . Jerry Jeff Walker has signed with the Jim Halsey Company. . . . Porter Wagoner to Top Billing. . . . George Jones to The Talent Agency. . . . Moe Bandy to World Class Talent. . . . Rodney Crowell to William Morris Agency. . . . Doug Kershaw, J. C. Crowley and Scott McQuaig to Buddy Lee Attractions. Wild Rose also to Buddy Lee. . . . The Jim Halsey Company has signed Pat Boone. . . . Capitol recording artist Dean Dillon has signed a Personal Management agreement with Jack McFadden and with McFadden and Associates, Inc. for exclusive worldwide representation. . . . Donna Douglas who played Elly Clampitt on the Beverly Hillbillies is expanding her career direction as a television star, actress and singer by signing a management agreement with Associated Artist Management in Tulsa, OK. A double album project is currently in the works with Gene Breeden producing. The collection will include original and classic gospel and country songs and is set for release in late summer, as is a music video.

Tri-Son News

● Universal Records' Joe Barnhill, whose 'Your Old Flame's Going Out Tonight' is still riding the charts, is the subject of a recent Michael McCall feature in The Nashville Banner and guest appearances on The Week In Country Music, Nashville Now and Talk of the Town in Nashville, expresses his gratitude to the record label, print and broadcast medias and his fans for acceptance of his music. 'I have a lot to be thankful for,' says Barnhill. 'I've been "getting into" this business for several years now. I'm anxious to have my next record release—hopefully with a lot higher chart position. We're also planning on a video and album release in the fall.'

● THE BOOK BEAT: Jeannie Seely's 'Pieces Of A Puzzled Mind', a wonderful series of true-speaking 'Seelyisms', is available from her at PO Box 22117, Nashville, TN 37202 at \$9.95 each, which includes shipping and handling. . . . The Favourite Country Stars photo book is now available from Advantage Publishing Inc, 1801 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. The book retails for \$4.95 plus shipping. Call Sherry Arnold, Circulation Department for more details, 615/329 1973. . . . Carolyn Holleran who has published four books on country music stars, has now put together a Video Tour. 'Just like the ones I do on my tours in Music City for the tourists,' she says. It is 75 minutes of information and interviews, shots of downtown Nashville, and the homes of some of the stars. The price is \$24.95 plus 33 postage and handling. All orders should be directed to her at PO Box 101545, Nashville, TN 37224.

● Anchored with performances by the legendary British rock band The Who, the entertainment lineups have been finalised for what is being billed as 'the biggest party in the history of Texas'. The two-day, six-city Texas Party is being staged by Miller Lite to raise \$1 million for Texas Special Olympics. The unprecedented regional event features more than 35 musical acts and includes such music standouts as George Strait, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Waylon Jennings, Huey Lewis and the News, Johnny Rodriguez, Hall and Oats, Bellamy Brothers, T. Graham Brown and more. Parties will be staged in Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Midland/Odessa, and Mercedes. Performance dates are September 2nd and 3rd. Actor and Texan Randy Quaid has been featured for the past 16 months in a series of Lite Beer ads chronicling his efforts to put together the party.

● Tanya Tucker is the mother of a baby girl born July 5th in Nashville and whom she promptly named Presley Tanita, for you-know-who and her Mom, Juanita. Presley weighed in at 7 lb 6 oz and was 20 inches long. Highway 101's Cactus and wife Ellen are expecting their baby this month. Paulette Carlson will marry Randy Smith, who hails from Alaska, on November 4th.

● Ricky Van Shelton Sings Christmas has been completed and will include two new songs co-written by Ricky, plus some classics, like 'White Christmas' and 'I'll Be Home For Christmas'. Shelton has also expressed plans to do a project dear to his heart, a gospel album.

● Lynn Anderson has been named the Youth Director for the Tennessee chapter of the American Jr. Quarter Horse Association, and her daughter Lisa Sutton has been appointed Youth President. Lynn escorted 24 young riders to the AQHA World Finals July 29th-August 5th in Tulsa, OK. In true, country-entertainer style, they travelled in one of Elvis' former tour buses, complete with the Taking Care of Business insignia. The youths donned tuxes and ballgowns to represent Tennessee in the Parade of States as they waltzed to the state song, the Tennessee Waltz ('n that's enough to thrill Pee Wee King and Red Stewart). Tennessee boasts six riders in the nation's top ten.

● NEWS BRIEFS: K. T. Oslin will be taping a Canadian television show hosted by Anne Murray on September 11th-14th in Toronto. The show will air on CBC, the Canadian television network in October. . . . Johnny Russell is maintaining a busy schedule into fall with numerous appearances at Lowe's Theatre in Branson, MO. For you who are the plan-ahead kind, the 1990 Johnny Russell Day celebration is set for April 28th. . . . Gary Morris guested on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show July 20th. He joins with Conway Twitty, Minnie Pearl, and Opryland USA's 16-member Country Music USA cast to perform for the Oklahoma Centennial at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie. The Nashville Network will have a crew on hand and a 60-minute Special will air on September 20th and 29th. Morris will also appear September 10th on an NBC-TV titles Very Universal Records has announced plans to release Gary's Every Christmas album with the addition of a new song 'Christmas Time' and a brand new cover. (The album was initially released on Warner Brothers Records.)

● NEWS BRIEFS: K. T. Oslin is recording the title tune for the upcoming Sea Of Love, starring Al Pacino. . . . Sheila and T. Graham Brown welcomed their first child on July 16th,



● Five-time Entertainer of the Year, Hank Williams Jr, has been signed by ABC Sports to endorse this year's 20th anniversary season of Monday Night Football. As part of the agreement, Hank re-recorded his classic 1984 hit, 'All My Rowdy Friends (Are Coming Over Tonight)' with a new set of self-penned lyrics. The result, 'All My Rowdy Friends (Are

Here For Monday Night'), will be the signature song for this season's televised games and will serve as the opening theme. In addition, promo spots featuring Williams and his seven-man Bama Band will begin airing on ABC-TV early this month and will continue running throughout the season.

Picture B. Shelley

an 8 lb 6 oz boy reportedly being called Acme Geronimo, 'tho' the birth certificate had not been filled in, according to Robert K. Oermann. . . . Cindy Nixon of the Girls Next Door, and her husband Michael Psnos are the proud parents of a 6 lb ½ oz daughter, Brittany Rhea, also born on July 16th. . . . Gail Davies was featured at Summerfest '89 (The Downtown Block Party), in Tacoma, WA, July 22nd. The two outdoor performances were her first live shows in three years, 'tho' she appeared on NBC-TV Today Show a month ago. Gail's final MCA album 'Pretty Words' was released early this year and she is now signed with Universal Records, headed by Jimmy Bowen. Bookings are handled by the Williams Morris Agency.

● Fans of the late Marty Robbins will be pleased to learn that a 55-minute video is now available on a concert he did at the Grand Ole Opry House in July 1980. Performing with his band on the Opry stage, where Robbins frequently ruled the roost, the show definitely depicts his true style of 'funning around' with the audience and is sure to be a favourite among video collectors. Self-titled by Robbins during some of his own ad lib remarks, which take place in the opening moments of the show, this package is being called 'A Man And His Music'. Edited by Robbins' son, Ronny, this special concert video is available exclusively through Marty Robbins Enterprises, 713-18th Avenue, South, Nashville, TN 37203. Tapes are available in either Beta or VHS format for \$29.95 plus \$3 postage and handling. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Don't forget UK readers to request UK format, NOT USA; conversion costs a fortune.

● Wayne Newton is the consummate performer and his accomplishments are many. Now, in addition to the phenomenal success of his live stage shows, Wayne has once again focused his talents on a recording career with a new country album titled 'Coming Home' on Curb Records.

● NEWS BRIEFS: Mel Tillis has started his own label, Radio Records. His next single will reportedly be the Bill Anderson-penned 'City Lights'. . . . Tammy Wynette's Greatest Hits album has gone Platinum. . . . Garth Brooks plays himself and will be singing in TNN's two-hour drama 'Nashville Beat' which reunites Adam 12 series co-stars Kent McCord and Martin Milner. The show will air on TNN in October and released to movie theatres overseas. . . . Glen Campbell and daughter Debbie recorded at Sound Stage in Nashville for his new album. New Grass Revival members Pat Flynn, John Cowan and Reta Fleck provided instrumental accompaniment. . . . Randy Travis was among the guests on CBS' national driving test, sponsored by Valvoline Oil Co, which aired August 29th. The test was hosted by Christopher Reeve. Other guests included Lorenzo Lamas, Bruce Jenner, Betty White and Lindsay Wagner. . . . Producer Richard K. Rosenberg has acquired the exclusive film rights to the entire catalogue of Roy Orbison music from Acuff-Rose in Nashville. The deal includes 24 of Orbison's most famous songs, including 'Pretty Woman', 'Only The Lonely' and 'Blue Bayou'. Rosenberg is developing a feature film on Orbison's life. . . . Buck Owens and Tanya Tucker are among the celebrities who will adopt and name 18 young bald eagles. The birds will be flown in from Alaska and released into the wilds of Tennessee.

● A quarter million people showed up July 4th at Fountain Hills in Phoenix, AZ, to hear Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers, along with Highway 101 and the Jeff Dayton Band, as they performed a KMLE Radio-sponsored date. According to the Arizona State Police this was the largest one-day event in the state's history.

● Now that they've gotten studio recording down pat, with 40 albums under their belts, the Statler Brothers have finally cut a live LP for Mercury/Polygram. Recorded during two sold-out shows at the Capitol Theatre in Wheeling, WV, and as yet untitled, the album is scheduled for fall release. Theatre manager Ross Felton said the Statler performance that night constituted the largest grossing shows in their history.

● Billy Joe Royal can claim the distinction of having every video he's released reach the number one position on the playlist of Country Music Television. His 'Love Has No Right' clip recently became Royal's fourth number one video as well as the 'Power Request' clip during its third straight week at the top of the heap. B.J. and George Strait recently performed before 28,000 appreciative fans in Houston before heading off to California for a series of shows there, including a one-night stand at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.



Picture B. Shelley

Johnny Rodriguez

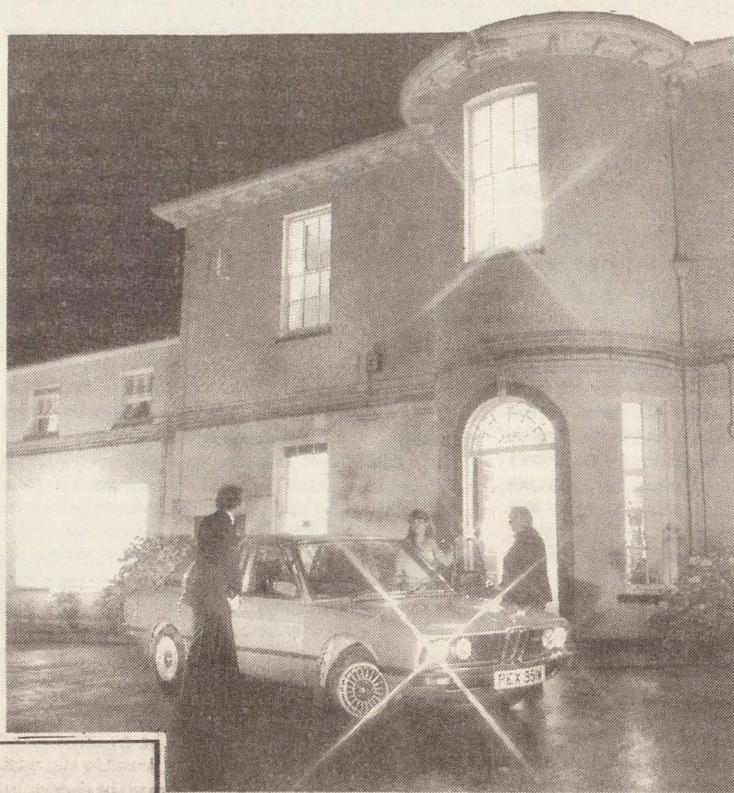
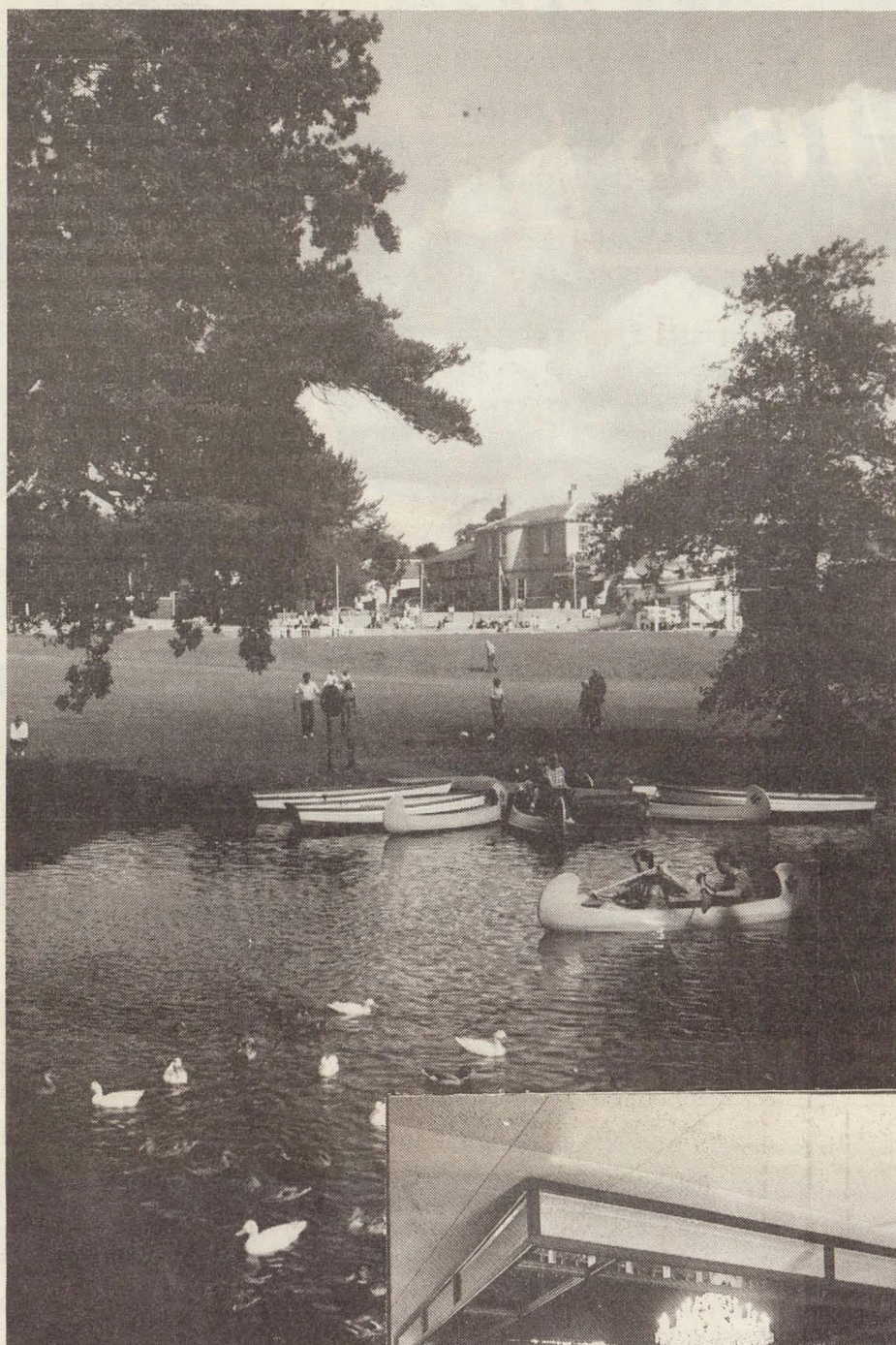
● Johnny Rodriguez, who's having an action-packed summer, recently played to capacity crowds at the International Singer-Songwriter Festival in Frutigen, Switzerland. So successful was he, in fact, that the Swiss promoters have already booked him to return next year at a larger festival in Zug. Back in Nashville he busied himself promoting his new 'back To Stay' single for Capitol Records and pre-production work on his next album with producer Allen Reynolds.

Warner

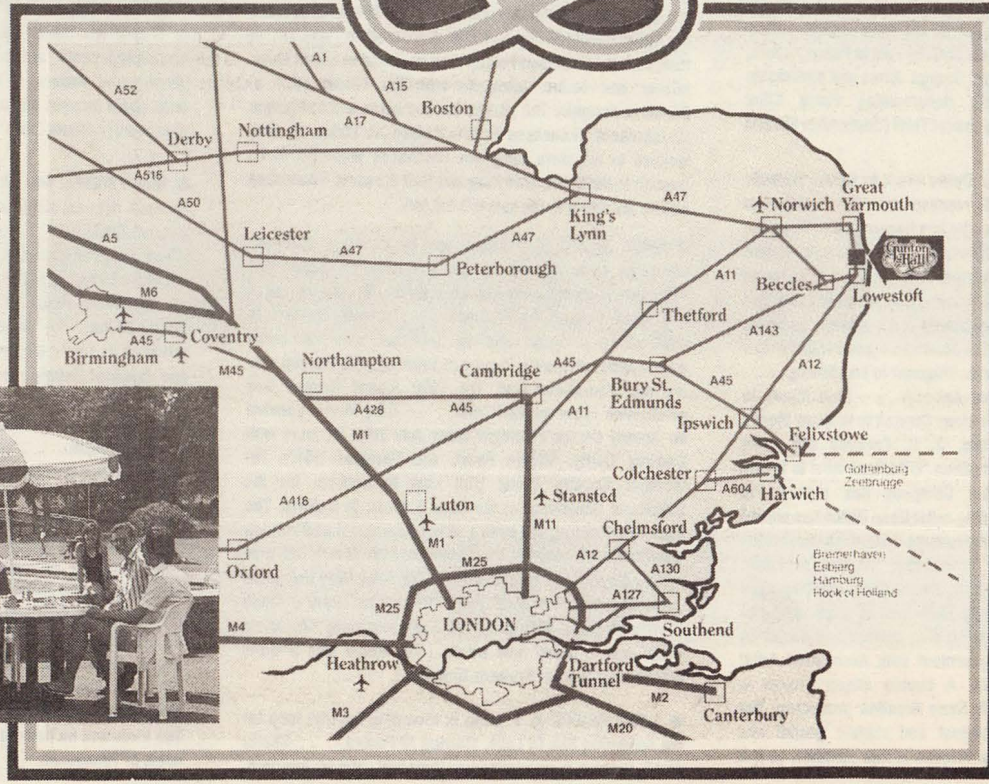
Holidays

GUNTON HALL

**FRIDAY, 24th NOVEMBER,
SUNDAY, 26th NOVEMBER , 1989**



Country Music ROUND UP International Awards — 1989 —



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YOUR COUNTRY (AWARDS) NEED YOU

**Country
Music**
ROUND UP

**1989
International Awards**

ONE OF the saddest side-effects of the failure of this year's Jamboree was that the awards voted for by the readers of this and other European papers were not actually presented during the festival.

It is true that all the winners have been announced and one or two actually did receive their awards but this was certainly not in a style the stature of the awards deserved and the vast majority of plaques are still in our office and we were faced with the problem as to how to present them in a manner reflecting the number of people who actually voted.

BEST IN COUNTRY MUSIC

These awards are generally accepted as being the most important made outside the United States and they are something we are proud to be associated with. We think they give European fans the chance to vote for their favourite country music acts as well as giving a boost to the careers of those chosen. They also give those in the industry a chance to see who are the favourites of the committed country music fans. We also hope they help country music generally and have every intention of continuing with them.

Therefore, we are proud to have been able to combine with Warner Holidays to present the 1989 Country Music Round Up International Awards Show at Gunton Hall, Gunton, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, on the weekend Friday, November 24th to Sunday, November 26th.

We realise that we have left the event late to advertise and that many who may wish to attend may have other commitments to both their time and their money but we hope that many who voted will want to see their favourites being honoured properly and will support the event.

SPECIAL PRICE

To this effect we have tried to do our part by offering the finest entertainment for the lowest price possible and by special arrangement with Gunton Hall are able to offer the total full board weekend for £57 plus VAT, and we feel it represents really excellent value for money.

The Venue: Gunton Hall is certainly one of the jewels in the Warners Holiday Group crown. The chalets are all centrally heated with coloured television and tea/coffee making facilities. They are scattered around 50 acres of beautiful parkland dominated by the splendid Gunton Hall. The whole estate is very picturesque with its own lawns, gardens and lake, and plenty of sporting facilities are available.

The location: Gunton Hall is easy to find being just off the A 12 a couple of miles north of Lowestoft. The nearest railway station is at Lowestoft.

What is included in the price: All meals from Friday dinner until Sunday lunch. The Awards Show and full country music entertainment plus all the sporting facilities.

The meals: All of these are designed for the hungry! Breakfast starts with fruit juice/cereals/porridge, followed by the choice of full English breakfast, rolls, boiled eggs or fish accompanied by toast and tea/coffee. Lunch starts with juice or soup followed by a hot dish or wok centre meals or choose the specialist cold buffet, use the omelette bar; there is a choice of desert to finish. Dinner offers the same wide range plus cheese and biscuits and tea/coffee. All you need bring is an appetite!

What you need to know

We have deliberately not chosen a huge venue, preferring to go for a more intimate setting with quality rather than quantity, so numbers are strictly limited. We have kept the price low in order to fit it in to your budget. So come and see your favourites. We have tried to book as many of the award winners/nominees as possible if they are available.

It's going to be a great weekend for everyone

All we need now is YOU.

ENTERTAINMENT

The weekend does not officially start until Friday dinner but for those that can arrive early the bar and coffee shop will be open from lunchtime.

CONCERTS - DANCING - SINGALONGS
Friday evening commences with dinner. afterwards we start the music in the superb purpose-built Cabaret Bar at around 8.30 pm with top band Nashville Fever presenting a cabaret spot followed by star celebrity guests also in cabaret. There will be dancing to the country disco of Cliff Stevens during the changeover.

'Holiday to the Limit'

For those that arrive late, meals will be available and you will have a chance to see our Featured Acts because they will be returning to play for dancing before further country disco/singalong. The entertainment in the Cabaret Bar will keep going as long as we wish and facility is there for us to adjourn to the Night Club where you can party some more.

Saturday morning: We have learnt from the CMRU Annual House Parties that our guests are inclined to party quite late so we asked Warners to skip breakfast and provide us with a king-sized American-style brunch.

This means you can lay in late and sleep on without missing a meal. For the more energetic all the Holiday Sporting facilities will be available and we plan to arrange a quiz and Western dancing lessons then some of our star guests will entertain providing an informal lunch time session in the Cabaret Bar.

Saturday Afternoon: Sees the start of the BIG event . . . the 1989 Awards Show. We have decided to start the Awards Show in the afternoon because this way we have more time and we will actually be able to play recorded products of the acts concerned and the messages from acts not able to attend.

Saturday Evening: Following the special awards dinner we will have another country music cabaret show featuring — award winning acts — followed by disco and live music for dancing. It may be the 25th November, not December, but we intend to make this Round Up's 'Christmas Party' so come prepared for a late night.

Sunday Morning: Full breakfast for those that make it, before a final jam session/singalong in the Cabaret Bar

Sunday lunch.

Depart:

How to book: Please note that you book direct with Warners, not us. Please use the form printed here, and the Deposits of £10 per person should be made out to 'Warners Holidays Ltd'.

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Warner Holidays Gunton Hall

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FRIDAY, 24th NOVEMBER, 1989

• • SUNDAY, 26th NOVEMBER,

Full Board

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SINGLE	DOUBLE	TWIN	TRIPLE	FAMILY	COT REQUIRED

Limited availability

WHO'S COMING? (If more than one unit of accommodation is required please indicate clearly who will be occupying each unit)

TITLE	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	INSURANCE? (DELETE YES IF NOT REQ'D)	AGE OF CHILD AT HOLIDAY DATE	TICK IF OVER 60
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		
			YES		

ORGANISERS NAME AND ADDRESS FOR CONFIRMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

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SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please list any special needs, eg childrens birthday while on holiday, vegetarian meals, disabled member of party.

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YOUR DEPOSIT	x £10 =
YOUR INSURANCE	x £3.50 =
TOTAL	£
TOTAL ENCLOSED	£

Bookings within six weeks of arrival must be accompanied by full payment.

I enclose my deposit of £13.50 including £3.50 Insurance premium. (Deposit £10 per person if YES is deleted in the boxes re Insurance). I agree to the terms set out in this brochure, and apply for Club Membership for all persons on this form and understand that subscriptions are included in the deposit. Cheques should be made payable to Warner Holidays Ltd.

SIGNATURE DATE

CONTACT PHONE NO. DAY EVENING

FOR INSURANCE DETAILS, PLEASE SEE BOOKING CONDITIONS

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

If you wish to pay your deposit (or total holiday cost) by Access or Visa, please complete your Account particulars below.

	PLEASE TICK ☐		PLEASE TICK ☐
CREDIT CARD NO.		AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED	
CARDHOLDERS NAME		CARDHOLDERS SIGNATURE	
ADDRESS (If different from organiser)			

FOR OFFICE USE

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INSURANCE

TOTAL

CHEQUE ☐ CASH ☐ PO ☐ CBA ☐

Return this booking form to: Warner Holidays, PO Box 22, Havant PO9 1TA

FOLLOWING a successful Wembley debut last Easter, Kimmie Rhodes undertook a whistle stop tour of the UK which brought her to Newcastle upon Tyne on the cool North East coast of England. The visit must have been the best kept secret in country music.

● Local fans stayed away in droves, but it was their loss. Strange, when you consider the complaints from north east fans that touring American artists never visit the area. Here we had an artist with great promise, all the way from warm, sunny Austin, plus her band of five native Texans and one Brit — fresh from that debut at Wembley. So where were the fans?

● Well, it was Sunday lunchtime, so most of the lads were probably in the pub or club slaving over a cold pint while the ladies were probably slaving over a hot stove, cooking Sunday dinner. But the cover charge was minimal (£2) and the venue was the bar of the Playhouse Theatre in the City Centre.

● Enough complaints; what about the lady herself. Well, perhaps a little background first. Back in about 1986, British country performer Wes McGee was forcing Kimmie Rhodes singles, on the Jackalope Brothers label, onto local DJs in Britain. One or two plays, then nothing — until July 1988 when highly favourable reviews of her 'Man In The Moon' album on Heartland records began appearing in the British country music press. About the same time Wally Whyton played two tracks from the album back to back on Country Club, which seemed unprecedented. Clearly, someone had noticed that here was a star in the making. Kimmie made a brief visit to the UK and played, as she says, 'All the Bs — Bath, Birmingham, Brighton and Bristol.'

Made Friends

● Then in September 1988 the BCMA's annual country music trip visited Texas. A special show was put on by the Texas Music Association at 'The Broken Spoke', a true Texas honky tonk, in Austin. The show, which lasted from 7 pm to 2 am, was organised and compered by Al Dresser and featured a specially assembled western swing band led by Dresser, The Geezinslaw Brothers, Teddy and the Tall Tops, Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Freddy (Krc) Steady, The Wagoneers, plus numerous others. Tucked in the middle was a lady called Kimmie Rhodes. It was a long, tiring night of drinking, dancing, eating chicken fried steak . . . and talking. The Brits were a little reticent, not so their Texas cousins, who will buttonhole anyone, anywhere but usually at the bar or in the john! Any way, back to Ms Rhodes. On her album cover for 'Man In The Moon' she sits demurely in a white, off the shoulder, number looking almost like a wedding dress, with white stetson and boots, plus huge diamante earrings.

● Clearly, she had made a friend or two on that British visit — as the 'boys' of the BCMA group pretend not to notice, a young lady in a tiny silver lurex micro skirt has infiltrated the British side of the room. This is the real Kimmie. No frills, just a little lady with a big guitar. Maybe it just looks big because she's small. On stage she sings a necessarily short set because of the number of artists on the bill. She doesn't really have time to establish herself or a rapport with the audience. Her material is mostly self-written and, therefore, unfamiliar — but the voice is there and so is the talent. After her spot, she stands by the table where records, tapes are being sold, almost ignored and certainly not hyping her own product. She's friendly and funny; and when her borrowed pen won't write on the shiny album sleeve she says she'll have to engrave it, which she sets about doing almost through to the vinyl! But there it is, an album engraved 'Welcome to Texas! Love, Kimmie Rhodes.' Only later is it noticed that, although recorded in Texas with such guest musicians as Johnny Gimble and Jimmy Day, the album was manufactured in the UK. Talk about 'coals to Newcastle!' By this time the Brits' stamina is waning and they are drifting off to order cabs. For most the evening is over between midnight and 1 am.

● Now our narrative flashes ahead, to the pre-publicity for the 1989 Wembley Festival. Halfway down the bill for Easter Monday is Kimmie's name. Along with the other Wembley acts her tracks are

Paying her dues and meeting the people



played on national and local radio. At Wembley she is interviewed by Wally Whyton for Country Club and by numerous local DJs, but by the time those interviews are heard she will be home in Austin. On Easter Monday, however, she swishes on stage, looking more like her album cover — stetson, off the shoulder black top, a layered taffeta mini skirt and western boots. The band is cooking and she bops around the stage to the delight of the audience, which calls her back for an encore. Her set, still short, covers the wide range of country you would expect from a band of Texan musicians. After her spot she spends the rest of the evening in the Heartland Records booth, chatting to fans and signing autographs. She even has the good manners to pretend she remembers engraving that album in Austin.

● Then its two weeks on the road, visiting the parts Texas music rarely reaches — Hebden Bridge, Hartlepool, Sheffield, York, Manchester, etc. And so, to Newcastle on a chilly but bright Sunday morning. It's 12 noon when the bar of The Playhouse opens.

Kimmie and the band arrived a little early from Hartlepool where they'd played the previous evening — five hours early, in fact. By now the stage appears set, various musicians are checking sound levels and monitors. Wes McGee, the lone Brit in the outfit, will play lead guitar, Joe Gracey is on rhythm, David Zettner (via Willie Nelson) plays steel, Danny Levin (via Asleep At The Wheel) is on fiddle and electric piano, Maurice McElroy plays drums with James O'Malley on bass. Kimmie sits facing the stage, looking slightly woebegone — she's obviously seen this part before. Next to her is a tray of coffee.

● The show is due to start at 1 pm, and the early arrivals are the lucky ones. Kimmie is happy to look at some rather dubious snapshots from 'The Broken Spoke', she brings her coffee over and settles in for an hour of friendly, no pressure, chat. She is excited about her new album, recorded in Memphis which is to be released by Heartland in the summer. She used the old Sun Studios under the guiding hand of 'Cowboy' Jack Clement (who wrote 'Just Someone I Used To Know' featured on the last album), but still

produced by husband Joe Gracey. She is having some trouble with 'English as she is spoken' in the Old Country. The Hartlepool accent had totally eluded her the night before. She has a tote bag with a huge Sun Records logo on, from which she produces a manila envelope which holds her tour memorabilia.

● 'English as she is wrote' is almost as bad as it is 'spoke'. Requests from the floor on scraps of paper and old beer mats seem to have been written in Newspeak or Esperanto. The ones which can be understood really do request 'Cristal Chandeliers' and 'A Juds Song'. Being a glutton for punishment, she requests 'autographs' from those at the table. The writer uses his best writing to request her own song 'It'll Do', a duet with Wes McGee.

● She accepts a coke but no strong drink. She has to rush off to Middlesbrough immediately after the show for a live interview on Radio Cleveland, before he goes off air at 5 pm. The fact that most areas of Britain receive only two hours of country music radio per week nationally with, possibly, two hours locally amazes her. The British format of requests, interviews and news of local and national gigs does appeal to her, however, compared to the many US country stations where they churn out the top 40 and the DJs can literally phone it in. Just before 1.15 pm Kimmie produces a photograph with her little girl, who she's had to leave behind in Austin. Yes, she does miss her — but it won't be too long now.

Sung Requests

● All of a sudden Kimmie realises its time she was on stage, especially if she is to keep that date at Radio Cleveland. The band opens with a lively instrumental which gives each of them a brief opportunity to display his particular virtuosity. Then, unannounced, Kimmie slides on from stage left, slings her guitar around her neck and breaks into 'Just Someone I Used To Know'. Then to the consternation of the band she decides to do that request of 'It'll Do'. The prepared playlist hits the deck and is trodden underfoot by Danny Levin!

● For nearly two hours the music flows effortlessly and non-stop — all kinds of country including, but not limited to, western swing, honky tonk, rockabilly, blues, cajun . . . Songs from her first album with the Jackalope Brothers, from 'Man In The Moon' and a preview of the new album, plus one of two unrecorded like Jack Clement's 'It'll Be Me', Ray Campi's 'Caterpillar' and 'a song one of the neighbours wrote', which turns out to be 'Crazy'. The time has flown but suddenly the show is nearly over. There's one song left to go. Kimmie apologises for not being able to stay to meet more people and sign autographs, but a swift trip down the A19 to Cleveland awaits. She closes with the rousing 'My Little Chevrolet' . . . and she's gone. Well not quite. She still has time to say goodbye to her new friends — and makes it to Middlesbrough by 4.30 for that live interview.

● But, where were the fans. There were no more than 100 people in the bar, possibly as few as 50. The crowds who turned out for Nanci Griffith and Lyle Lovett in the auditorium of the same theatre, at a much higher ticket price, would have loved it. They should have been there. Maybe next time, if there is a next time.

By MIKE AVERY



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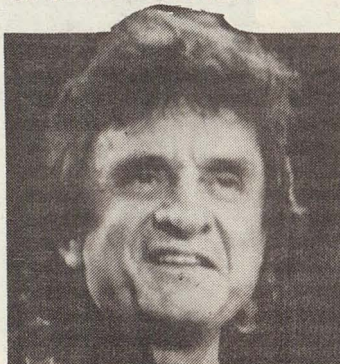
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BLUE GRASS NEWS

DERI CASH BONUS



DERI Promotions of Bognor Regis have announced the 'capture' of some big Nashville names for tours for the latter part of this year and next year. The fast rising ambitious company have gained a major coup with the signing of Johnny Cash and the entire Carter/Cash family show for a visit on March 24th, 1990, at Somerwest World, Minehead.

● A delighted Roy Cooper, who heads up Deri, confirmed on his return from Nashville, that he has also engaged names like Connie Smith, Guy Mitchell, Billie Jo Spears, Jacky Ward and Tokyo Matsu for UK dates including appearances at major Butlin's Festivals during the year.

Currently the company is engaged on preparations for a thirteen date tour by George Hamilton IV with Carlton and David Moody and the Western Rodeo Band commencing at Wonderwest World, Ayr, on October 22nd and 23rd, 1989.

● Further information on the aforementioned artists can be obtained on 0243 585545.

TOGETHER on a reunion tour the original Dillards pulled out old and new bluegrass fans from the woodwork for their appearance at the Astoria in Leeds. Possibly the most commercially successful bluegrass band ever, the Dillards were an influencing factor on emerging Californian bands such as the Eagles and Byrds.

● Their two albums 'Back Porch Bluegrass' and 'Live', both released in the mid 60s are now collectors items and provided much of the material to be found in a bluegrass session or act. The line up of Doug and Rodney Dillard, Dean Webb and Mitch Jayne was supplemented for the tour by guitarist Steve Hooley with the band playing the most driving laid back bluegrass heard in the UK.

● It's difficult to single out any number with rousing cheers greeting most of the programme . . . the Dillards magic adding lustre to what are now such standard songs and tunes. The BBC sound unit were on hand to record the proceedings for Country Club and I fervently hope that they manage to include some of the chatter, that was priceless in itself.

● A fitting gig for support band Sound In Mind as dobro player Pete is due to saddle up and head for Augusta, Georgia, on a year's work exchange however, even though depleted to a four piece, the swinging Mindettes will continue to triumph.

● The first Abergele Bluegrass Festival has already achieved almost legendary status due in part no doubt to the wonderful weather and pleasant location and, of course, the music. A case of all the gang were there with a goodly representation of bands including Scotland's Runaway String Band. Rosie Palmer and her clogging workshop and a last minute addition of the Old Timey music crew. This band had the distinction of drafting in Mat Ditchburn on guitar and Steve Read on bass. Bill Titley, now domiciled in France put in an appearance as did Angela and Thadeous Kaye, who seem to have been absent from the circuit for quite a while. An excellent first festival thanks to site owner John Prytherch who organised and provided the well placed facilities.

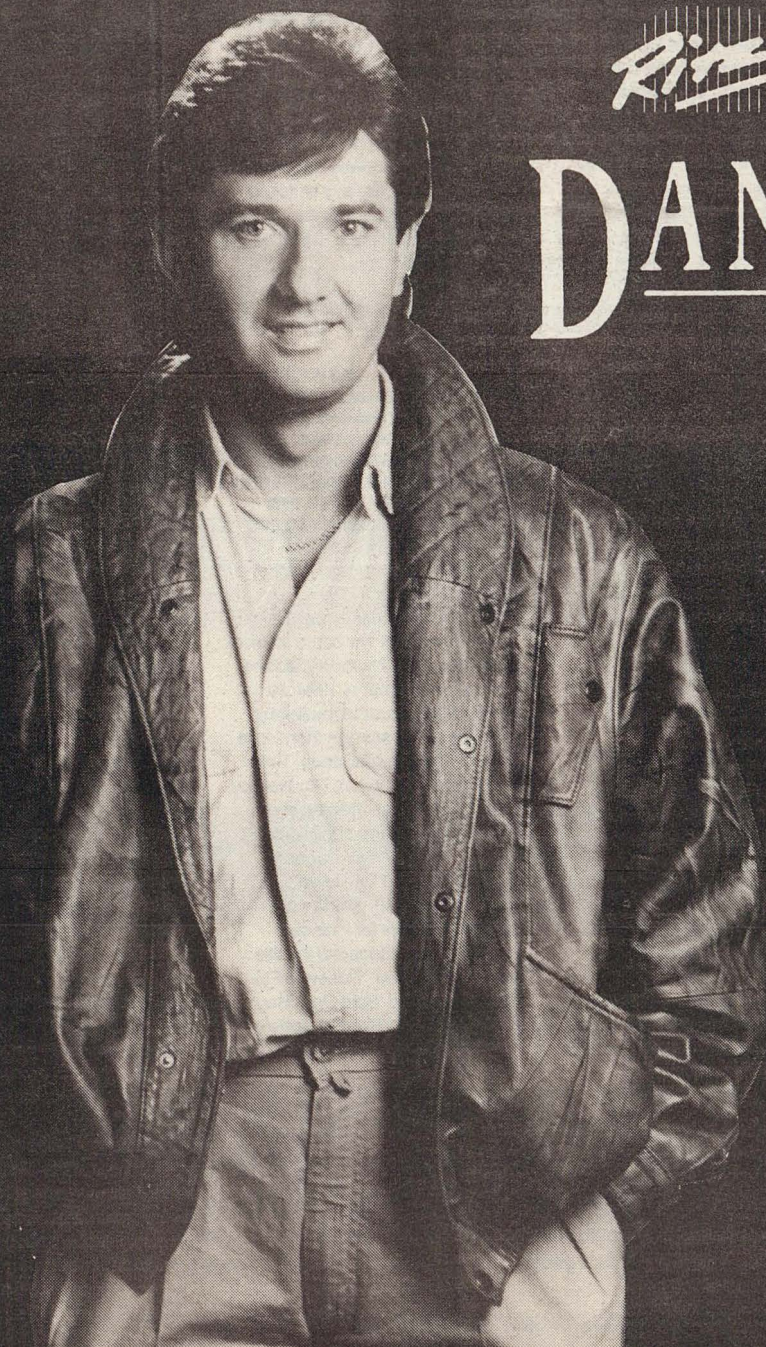
● Peter Wernick of Hot Rize fame and family are reported to be well, if a trifle shocked after walking away from the airline cartwheel disaster at Sioux City, Iowa, USA.



PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS IN CONCERT

DANIEL O'DONNELL



OCTOBER
Tue 17th
Wed 18th
Thu 19th
● Fri 20th
● Sat 21st
● Sun 22nd
Mon 23rd
Tue 24th
Wed 25th
● Thu 26th
● Fri 27th
● Sat 28th
● Sun 29th
Tue 31st
NOVEMBER
Wed 1st
Thu 2nd
Fri 3rd
Sat 4th
Sun 5th
Tue 7th
● Wed 8th
● Thu 9th
● Fri 10th
● Sat 11th
● Sun 12th
● Mon 13th
● Wed 15th
● Thu 16th
● Fri 17th
● Sat 18th
● Sun 19th
● Thu 23rd
● Fri 24th
● Sat 25th
● Sun 26th
Tue 28th
Wed 29th
Thu 30th
DECEMBER
Fri 1st
Sat 2nd
Sun 3rd

Middlesbrough
Sheffield
Cambridge
London
Dartford
Windsor
Crawley
Dunstable
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Birmingham
Gloucester
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Corn Exchange, Tel. 0223 357851
Dominion Theatre, Tel. 01-580 9562/3
Dominion Theatre, Tel. 01-580 9562/3
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Beck Theatre, Tel. 01-561 8371
Beck Theatre, Tel. 01-561 8371
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St. Georges Hall, Tel. 0274 752000
King Georges Hall, Tel. 0254 582582
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Marina Theatre, Tel. 0502 573318
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The Cresset, Tel. 0733 265705
Theatre Royal, Tel. 0603 628205
Theatre Royal, Tel. 0603 628205
Eden Court Theatre, Tel. 0463 221718. SOLD OUT
Eden Court Theatre, Tel. 0463 221718. SOLD OUT
Eden Court Theatre, Tel. 0463 221718. SOLD OUT
Eden Court Theatre, Tel. 0463 221718. SOLD OUT
Eden Court Theatre, Tel. 0463 221718. SOLD OUT
Grand Hall, Tel. 0563 23590
Capitol Theatre, Tel. 0224 583141. SOLD OUT
Capitol Theatre, Tel. 0224 583141. SOLD OUT
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Compere:

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HANK WILLIAMS JR.

GREATEST HITS VOL. 3
WARNER BROS 925834-1

I'M FOR LOVE: THIS AIN'T LOVE: AIN'T MISBEHAVIN': COUNTRY STATE OF MIND: MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS: MY NAME IS BOCEPHUS (LIVE VERSION): BORN TO BOOGIE: YOUNG COUNTRY: HEAVEN CAN'T BE FOUND: FINDERS ARE KEEPERS: THERE'S A TEAR IN MY BEER.

Hank Williams Jr has yet to make much impression on the country music follower on this side of the water, certainly compared to his success in the States, hopefully this excellent collection of recent hits will help put the matter into a better perspective.

The only previously unreleased (on album) selections 'Finders Are Keepers' and much talked about duet with Hank Sr, 'There's A Tear In My Beer' are both excellent additions to the 'hits', the latter through modern day technology sees father and son complementing each other in an outstanding manner. Hank may sometimes be rough and rowdy with his music for some, when he blends in southern rock and a touch of boogie every once in a while, yet in the main this is one where those tracks are down to a minimum. Among the outstanding tracks you need go no further than his self-penned 'I'm For Love', 'This Aon't Dallas', 'Country State Of Mind' and 'Young Country', where Hank takes topical subjects and comes up with good solid country compositions, his love of the south and for those who like himself don't always conform is never far from the surface.

'Mind Your Own Business', one of only three tracks not credited to the pen of Hank Jr, has the added bonus of Reba McEntire and Willie Nelson lending their pleasing vocals. 'Heaven Can't Be found' sees Hank in a more restrained style than we're accustomed to, although none the worse for that.

The only tracks which I could have done without are 'Born To Boogie' and 'My Name Is Bocephus', where he sells out to the hard driving southern rock and boogie. That grievance apart, this is a highly enjoyable album!

ROSANNE CASH

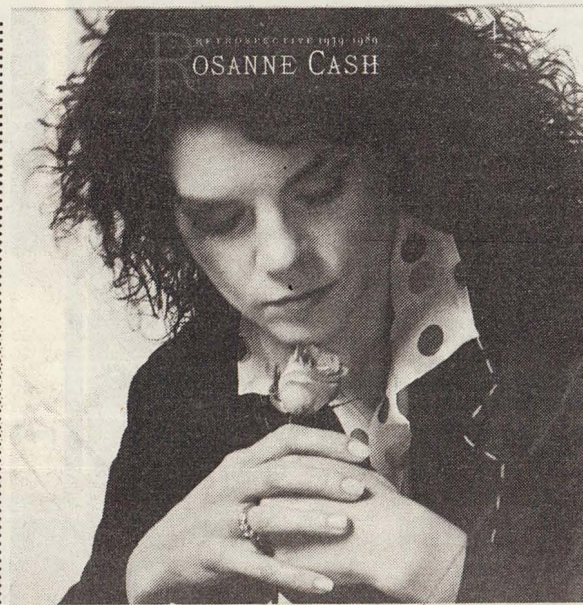
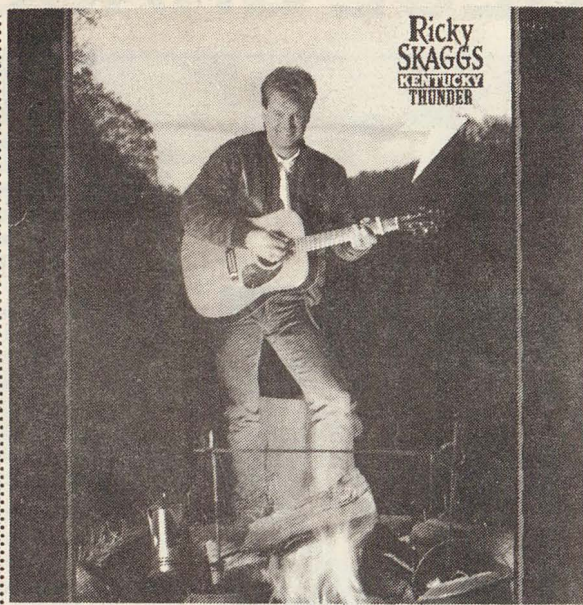
RETROSPECTIVE 1979-1989
CBS 463328 I

SEVEN YEAR ACHE: I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE PARTY: HOLD ON: BLUE MOON WITH A HEARACHE: MY BABY THINKS HE'S A TRAIN: NO MEMORIES HANGIN' AROUND.

A retrospective is a good title for this collection which covers the previously un-released 'Black And White' and 'I Don't Want To Spoil A Party' (Lennon-McCartney).

Rosanne's career to date like the album has had it's high and lows. During the early '80s her music seemed to possess a certain edge which but recently has eluded her 'Seven Year Ache', 'My Baby Thinks He's A Train', 'Hold On' and husband Rodney Crowell's 'No Memories Hangin' Around' (a duet with Bobby Bare) displays the lady at her best. Good crisp contemporary country music with a message. Of the more recent material the number one country single of '88 'Tennessee Flat Top Box' written by father John stands head and shoulders above the remainder, a real 'gem'.

REVIEWED BY
MAURICE HOPE



THEN AND NOW

NANCI GRIFFITH

Reviewed by: Pete Coffey

NANCI GRIFFITH was a ten-year recording veteran with four albums already to her credit when, in 1987, she signed to MCA Records and gained her initial recognition in the UK with 'Lone Star State Of Mind'. Just prior to that, her previous album, 'The Last Of The True Believers', had been put out here by Demon Records, but her first three albums still remained scarce, only sporadically filtering through on import.

● That has now changed, all three at last are on general release in the UK courtesy of MCA, who will also issue in late September her latest offering 'Storms'. In consecutively weighing Nanci's earliest records against her latest — the then and now comparisons of music spanning a decade and more — show changes, slowly but surely effected in her transition from a homespun Texan folkie to cosmopolitan sophisticate.

THERE'S A LIGHT BEYOND THESE WOODS
MCA 6052 (all formats)

I REMEMBER JOE: ALABAMA SOFT SPOKEN BLUES: MICHAEL'S SONG: SONG FOR REMEMBERED HEROES: WEST TEXAS SUN: THERE'S A LIGHT BEYOND THESE WOODS (MARY MARGARET): DOLLAR MATINEE: MONTANA BACKROADS: JOHN PHILLIP GRIFFITH.

Nanci's first album, a low budget, live to two-track affair cut as Austin's Pecan Street Studios over four days between December '77 and January '78, and magnificent in its purity and simplicity. Initially released by B. F. Deal Records and later Philo/Rounder, it's a mainly acoustic, guitar, banjo, dobro, mandolin backed collection of descriptive folkabilly songs — self-penned except for 'Montana Backroads' by Bruce Carlson, a writer with a similarly reflective style to that of Nanci, and 'Dollar Matinee' by Eric Taylor, a fine Texan poet who also adds guitar and joint vocals to the track. If the title track is familiar, the rest are less known but at least equal treasures begging discovery; particularly 'West Texas Sun', 'Song For Remembered Heroes', and the plaintive 'John Phillip Griffith'. Possibly this simple, charming and effective debut captures the music of Nanci Griffith in its most intrinsic state.

POET IN MY WINDOW
MCA 6053 (all formats)

MARILYN MONROE/NEON AND WALTZES: HEART OF A MINER: JULIE ANNE: YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN: OCTOBER REASONS: WHEELS: WORKIN' IN CORNERS: WALTZING WITH THE ANGELS: TROUBLE WITH ROSES: TONIGHT I THINK I'M GONNA GO DOWNTOWN: POET IN MY WINDOW.

Recorded at Loma Ranch Studio in Fredericksburg, Texas, and first released in 1982 by Houston-based Featherbed Records, then later on Philo/Rounder, the second album was obviously made with the close

attention to detail allowed by a larger budget. Backings are bigger, bolder, more intricate, though not overdone; with guitars, pedal steel, piano, synthesizer and a rhythm section driven by added drums accentuating the range and the nuances of expression unleashed by Griffith's clear, sensitive voice. Her own songs rank amongst her most beautiful and poetic works, with immaculate performances to match; though her gentle, over-polite reading of the Jimmie Dale Gilmore penned 'Tonight I Think I'm Gonna Go Downtown' (the one non-original) less befits it than the resigned but unbowed version by Joe Ely. Nanci, like any writer, is best served by her own songs, generally speaking, and ten of her finest feature here.

ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON
MCA 6054 (all formats)

GHOST IN THE MUSIC: LOVE IS A HARD WALTZ: ROSEVILLE FAIR: MARY AND OMIE: FRIEND OUT IN THE MADNESS: TIME ALONE: BALLAD OF ROBIN WINTERSMITH: DADDY SAID: ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON: I'M NOT DRIVING THESE WHEELS (BRING THE PROSE TO THE WHEEL): YEAR DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS: SPIN ON A RED BRICK FLOOR.

This the third album was the first made specifically for the Philo/Rounder crowd, and the first recorded outside her home state, at Jack Clement's Nashville Studios during the summer of 1984. An almost trebled cast of musicians includes studio session men Lloyd Green (dobro, pedal steel), Terry McMillan (harmonica), Roy Huskey (bass), Bela Fleck (banjo), and Mark O'Connor (mandolin, fiddle), plus debuts by Phillip Donnelly (lead guitar) and Lyle Lovett (harmony vocals). All the more instant in access for including readily known songs like the title track, Bill Staines' 'Roseville Fair', the self-penned 'Spin On A Red Brick Floor' and Richard Dobson's 'Ballad Of Robin Wintersmith', yet

again the obscurer sides are equally compelling. Sparklin co-production between Griffith and Jim Rooney strengthens the bridge to commerciality — but with no palpable change in style and without compromising pure roots integrity.

STORMS
MCA 6066 (all formats)

I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT LOVE: DRIVE IN MOVIES AND DASHBOARD LIGHTS: YOU MADE THIS LOVE A TEARDROP: BRAVE COMPANION OF THE ROAD: STORMS: IT'S A HARD LIFE WHEREVER YOU GO: IF WISHES WERE CHANGES: LISTEN TO THE RADIO: LEAVING THE HARBOUR: RADIO FRAGILE.

The brand new album and, while Nanci's heart beats ever true to folk origins and her voice and songs retain earthy beauty and rural motivation, the backings — though perfect in their execution — have become cosmopolitan beyond recognition. Had I come chronologically from her last studio LP, 'Little Love Affairs' (which I'd hope might merely be a temporary flirtation with the production line), changes would not have been immediately noticed, but skipping directly from her third to eighth they sound drastic. Appreciation for his musicianship does not prevent blame being correctly apportioned on James Hooker, who has standardised the Blue Moon Orchestra's sound for wider marketability. But it is a sound that earned Nanci top honours when she recently appeared at the Cambridge Folk Festival and, therefore, if at the expense of a few purists, will presumably increase her following. Despite what goes on behind her, which is not as expected rectified by the switch in recording location to California and proven production of Glyn Jones (Eagles, John Hiatt, White Mansions among others), the lyrics, melodies and voice of Nanci Griffith still reign supreme and make this, like all her albums, essential.

● Nanci then or Nanci now? The innate music of a charming girl from some backwater in Texas or the comparatively sophisticated sound of a woman with worldly intent? The preference is a matter of personal taste (I know mine!). But the only real schism is in the backdrop and the customary rustic qualities inherent in Nanci Griffith — the homespun poet in the window who puts a ghost in the music and waltzes with angels — will never be obscured.

PETE COFFEY

COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP OFF THE RECORD

TOP · SINGLES · TOP · ALBUMS

Billboard



FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 19, 1989

Compiled from a national sample of radio playlists.					ARTIST	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL	
				PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)		
1	2	3	14	SUNDAY IN THE SOUTH R.HALL, R.BYRNE (J.BOOKER)	◆ SHENANDOAH COLUMBIA 38 68892/CBS	
2	3	7	13	ARE YOU EVER GONNA LOVE ME C.WATERS, H.DUNN (C.WATERS, T.SHAPIRO, H.DUNN)	HOLLY DUNN WARNER BROS. 7-22957	
3	1	2	13	TIMBER I'M FALLING IN LOVE T.BROWN (KOSTAS)	PATTY LOVELESS MCA 53641	
4	4	8	14	LOVE HAS NO RIGHT N.LARKIN (R.SCRUGGS, B.J.ROYAL, N.LARKIN)	◆ BILLY JOE ROYAL ATLANTIC AMERICA 7-99217/ATLANTIC	
5	5	9	13	ANY WAY THE WIND BLOWS SOUTHERN PACIFIC, J.E.NORMAN (J.MCFEE, A.PESSIS)	◆ SOUTHERN PACIFIC WARNER BROS. 7-22965	
6	6	11	13	I'M STILL CRAZY B.MONTGOMERY (V.GOSDIN, S.GOSDIN, B.CANNON)	VERN GOSDIN COLUMBIA 38 68888/CBS	
7	7	13	9	I WONDER DO YOU THINK OF ME G.FUNDIS, K.WHITLEY (S.D.SHAFFER)	KEITH WHITLEY RCA 8940-7	
8	9	12	11	THIS WOMAN H.SHEDD (K.T.OSLIN)	K.T.OSLIN RCA 8943-7	
9	10	14	14	NEVER GIVIN' UP ON LOVE S.GIBSON, J.E.NORMAN (M.SMOTHERMAN)	◆ MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY WARNER BROS. 7-22970	
10	12	16	11	NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW F.FOSTER (B.N.CHAPMAN)	WILLIE NELSON COLUMBIA 38 68923/CBS	

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◆ Recording Industry Assn. Of America (RIAA) certification for sales of 1 million units.
▲ RIAA certification for sales of 2 million units.

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RECORDS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE	ARTIST
				PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL
11	13	18	8	ABOVE AND BEYOND T.BROWN, R.CROWELL (H.HOWARD)	RODNEY CROWELL COLUMBIA 38 68948/CBS
12	14	17	10	HONKY TONK HEART P.WORLEY, E.SEAY (J.PHOTOGLLO, R.SMITH)	◆ HIGHWAY 101 WARNER BROS. 7-22955
13	15	19	10	GIVE ME HIS LAST CHANCE T.BROWN, S.SMITH (L.CARTWRIGHT)	◆ LIONEL CARTWRIGHT MCA 53651
14	16	21	7	LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT LOVE B.MAHER (C.PERKINS, P.KENNERLEY, B.MAHER)	THE JUDDS CURB/RCA 8947-7/RCA
15	17	20	13	AND SO IT GOES R.SCRUGGS, NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND (P.OVERSTREET, D.SCHLITZ)	JOHN DENVER/NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND UNIVERSAL 66008
16	20	24	8	I GOT DREAMS J.BOWEN, S.WARINER (S.WARINER, B.LABOUNTY)	STEVE WARINER MCA 53665
17	18	23	8	PROMISES K.LEHNING (R.TRAVIS, J.LINDLEY)	◆ RANDY TRAVIS WARNER BROS. 7-22917
18	22	27	6	KILLIN' TIME J.STROUD, M.WRIGHT (C.BLACK, H.NICHOLAS)	◆ CLINT BLACK RCA 8945-7
19	21	26	9	DON'T YOU W.WALDMAN (O.YOUNG, J.PIERCE)	THE FORESTER SISTERS WARNER BROS. 7-22943
20	25	29	8	(I WISH I HAD A) HEART OF STONE K.LEHNING (W.HOLYFIELD, R.LEIGH)	◆ BAILLIE AND THE BOYS RCA 8944-7
21	27	31	12	CROSS MY BROKEN HEART W.WALDMAN (V.THOMPSON, K.FLEMING)	SUZY BOGUESS CAPITOL 44399
22	28	33	7	HELLO TROUBLE P.WORLEY, E.SEAY (E.MCDUFF, O.COUGH)	◆ THE DESERT ROSE BAND MCA/CURB 53671/MCA
23	29	32	7	FINDERS ARE KEEPERS H.WILLIAMS, JR., B.BECKETT, J.E.NORMAN (H.WILLIAMS, JR.)	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. WARNER/CURB 7-22945/WARNER BROS.
24	8	6	15	MORE THAN A NAME ON A WALL J.KENNEDY (J.FORTUNE, J.RIMEL)	THE STATLER BROTHERS MERCURY 874 196-7
25	30	34	9	THE COAST OF COLORADO J.BOWEN, S.EWING (S.EWING, M.D.BARNES)	SKIP EWING MCA 53663
26	31	37	5	LIVING PROOF S.BUCKINGHAM (J.MACRAE, S.CLARK)	RICKY VAN SHELTON COLUMBIA 38 68994/CBS
27	11	1	16	WHY'D YOU COME IN HERE LOOKIN' LIKE THAT R.SKAGGS (B.CARLISLE, R.THOMAS)	◆ DOLLY PARTON COLUMBIA 38-68760/CBS
28	32	35	6	ACT NATURALLY J.CRUTCHFIELD, J.SHAW (V.MORRISON, J.RUSSELL)	◆ BUCK OWENS AND RINGO STARR CAPITOL 44409
29	34	39	4	SAV WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART T.DUBOIS, S.HENDRICKS, RESTLESS HEART (D.SCHLITZ, D.LOWERY)	RESTLESS HEART RCA 9034-7
30	19	5	18	ONE GOOD WELL D.WILLIAMS, G.FUNDIS (K.ROBBINS, M.REID)	DON WILLIAMS RCA 8867-7

TOP · SINGLES · TOP · ALBUMS

Compiled from a national sample of retail store and one-stop sales reports.					ARTIST	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	TITLE	LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)*	
1	1	1	13	REBA MCENTIRE	MCA 6294 (8.98) (CD) 9 weeks at No. 1	
2	5	7	14	CLINT BLACK	RCA 9668-1 (8.98) (CD)	
3	3	3	25	GEORGE STRAIT	◆ MCA 42266 (8.98) (CD)	
4	2	2	25	HANK WILLIAMS, JR.	◆ WARNER/CURB 25834/WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD)	
5	4	4	17	THE JUDDS	CURB/RCA 9595/RCA (8.98) (CD)	
6	6	5	9	DOLLY PARTON	COLUMBIA 44384/CBS (CD)	
7	7	8	55	RANDY TRAVIS	◆ WARNER BROS. 25738 (8.98) (CD)	
8	12	12	45	PATTY LOVELESS	MCA 42223 (8.98) (CD)	
9	8	10	48	K.T. OSLIN	◆ RCA 8369 (8.98) (CD)	
10	11	11	13	KENNY ROGERS	REPRISE 1-25792 (8.98) (CD)	
11	9	6	44	RICKY VAN SHELTON	◆ COLUMBIA 44221/CBS (CD)	
12	13	13	68	RODNEY CROWELL	COLUMBIA 44076/CBS (CD)	
13	10	9	13	NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND	UNIVERSAL 12500/MCA (10.98) (CD)	
14	14	14	61	KEITH WHITLEY	◆ RCA 6494-1 (8.98) (CD)	
15	16	16	26	SHENANDOAH	COLUMBIA 44468/CBS (CD)	
16	15	15	10	K.D. LANG & THE RECLINES	SIRE 25877/WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD)	
17	17	17	26	ALABAMA	◆ RCA 8587-1 (8.98) (CD)	
18	23	24	24	BILLY JOE ROYAL	ATLANTIC AMERICA 91064/ATLANTIC (8.98) (CD)	
19	21	21	117	RANDY TRAVIS	◆ WARNER BROS. 25568-1 (8.98) (CD)	
20	18	19	6	RICKY SKAGGS	EPIC 45027/CBS (CD)	
21	19	20	17	KATHY MATTEA	MERCURY 836 950 1 (CD)	
22	22	22	52	THE JUDDS	◆ RCA/CURB 8318-1/RCA (8.98) (CD)	
23	20	18	22	ROSANNE CASH	COLUMBIA 45054/CBS (CD)	
24	30	32	4	VERN GOSDIN	COLUMBIA 45104/CBS (CD)	

Albums with the greatest sales gains this week. (CD) Compact disc available. ◆ Recording Industry Assn. Of America (RIAA) certification for sales of 500,000 units. ▲ RIAA certification for sales of 1 million units, with each additional million indicated by a numeral following the symbol.

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WKS. AGO	WKS. ON CHART	ARTIST	TITLE
				LABEL & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)*	
25	NEW	1	1	WILLIE NELSON	COLUMBIA 45046 (CD) A HORSE CALLED MUSIC
26	24	23	13	THE OAK RIDGE BOYS	MCA 42294 (8.98) (CD) GREATEST HITS, VOL. III
27	27	25	107	K.T. OSLIN	◆ RCA 5924-1 (8.98) (CD) 80'S LADIES
28	31	29	9	LORRIE MORGAN	RCA 9594-1 (8.98) (CD) LEAVE THE LIGHT ON
29	29	30	14	GARTH BROOKS	CAPITOL 90897 (8.98) (CD) GARTH BROOKS
30	26	26	22	GEORGE JONES	EPIC 44078/CBS (CD) ONE WOMAN MAN
31	28	28	6	MERLE HAGGARD	EPIC 44283/CBS (CD) 5:01 BLUES
32	25	27	52	DWIGHT YOAKAM	◆ REPRISE 25749/WARNER BROS. (8.98) (CD) BUENAS NOCHES FROM A LONELY ROOM
33	39	42	3	HOLLY DUNN	WARNER BROS. 25939 (8.98) (CD) THE BLUE ROSE OF TEXAS
34	32	33	182	ALABAMA	◆ RCA AHL1-7170 (8.98) (CD) GREATEST HITS
35	33	36	42	THE STATLER BROTHERS	MERCURY 834 626 (CD) THE STATLER BROTHERS GREATEST HITS
36	36	39	6	MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY	WARNER BROS. 25894 (8.98) (CD) LAND OF ENCHANTMENT
37	41	38	22	RONNIE MILSAP	RCA 9587 (8.98) (CD) STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED
38	35	34	165	RAK 'Y' TRAVIS	◆ WARNER BROS. 1-25435 (8.98) (CD) STORMS OF LIFE
39	40	35	105	PATSY CLINE	◆ MCA 12 (8.98) (CD) GREATEST HITS
40	42	41	18	STEVE WARINER	MCA 42272 (8.98) (CD) I GOT DREAMS
41	37	31	27	LYLE LOVETT	MCA/CURB 42263/MCA (8.98) (CD) LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND
42	34	37	9	EDDY RAVEN	UNIVERSAL 76003/MCA (8.98) (CD) TEMPORARY SANITY
43	43	45	99	GEORGE STRAIT	◆ MCA 42035 (8.98) (CD) GREATEST HITS, VOL. 2
44	45	48	6	LIONEL CARTWRIGHT	MCA 42276 (8.98) (CD) LIONEL CARTWRIGHT
45	38	40	128	RICKY VAN SHELTON	◆ COLUMBIA 40602/CBS (CD) WILD EYED DREAM
46	44	43	8	SUZY BOGUESS	CAPITOL 90237 (8.98) (CD) SOMEWHERE BETWEEN
47	47	49	7	CONWAY TWITTY	MCA 42297 (8.98) (CD) HOUSE ON OLD LONESOME ROAD
48	55	52	65	SKIP EWING	MCA 42128 (8.98) (CD) THE COAST OF COLORADO
49	46	44	11	GARY MORRIS	UNIVERSAL 76005/MCA (8.98) (CD) STONES
50	51	53	6	THE BELLAMY BROTHERS	MCA/CURB 42298/MCA (8.98) (CD) GREATEST HITS, VOL. III

TOP · SINGLES · TOP · ALBUMS

RECORDS ○ ○ RECORDS ○ ○ RECORDS ○ ○ RECORDS

COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP OFF THE RECORD

RICKY SKAGGS

KENTUCKY THUNDER
EPIC RECORDS 465144

HUMMINGBIRD: ONLY ME: THE FIELDS OF HOME: HEARTBREAK HURRICANE: LET IT BE YOU: LONESOME FOR YOU: KENTUCKY THUNDER: WHEN I LOVE: HE WAS INTO SOMETHING: CASTING MY SHADOW ON THE ROAD.

Ricky Skaggs supported by Bela Fleck, Lloyd Green, Mark Casstevens, dobro wizard Jerry Douglas and Britain's own ace guitarist Albert Lee, has come up with another chart topper in 'Kentucky Thunder'.

Ricky's vocals sound crisp and sharp throughout and he absolutely revels in the biographical title track, which will appeal to bluegrass and traditional followers immensely, the musicians showing their class on the many excellent runs, with fiddle, dobro, mandolin and banjo all featured... 'Hummingbird' and 'Heartbreak Hurricane' (J. Rushing-L. Cordle) are both uptempo tracks, Albert Lee accompanying on the former, where he has plenty of opportunities to shine. The latter really 'cooks' with ample fiddle and dobro among the backing on what I feel is Skaggs' best album since 'Don't Cheat In Our Home Town'.

DOLLY PARTON
WHITE LIMOZEEN
CBS 4651351

TIME FOR ME TO FLY: YELLOW ROSES: WHY'D YOU COME IN HERE LOOKIN' LIKE THAT: SLOW HEALING HEART: WHAT IS IT MY LOVE: WHITE LIMOZEEN: WAIT 'TIL I GET YOU HOME (DUET WITH MAC DAVIS): TAKE ME BACK TO THE COUNTRY: THE MOON, THE STARS AND ME: HE'S ALIVE.



'White Limozeen' finds Dolly in fine voice, with a stronger country content than her albums have shown for a good few years, yet when news broke that Ricky Skaggs was to produce the venture I'd envisaged Dolly giving us more of that ol' down-home kind of country she used to be known for.

Well this is the eighties and the lady's ability to deliver those slow moving heart feeling ballads have given her a new dimension, which may not be to everyone's liking. For those who enjoy the 'bubbly' side of her music you need go no further than the delightful 'Time For Mr To Fly' (K. Cronin), where there's the excellent Stuart Duncan (fiddle), Bela Fleck (banjo), Lloyd Green (steel) and Ricky Skaggs (mandolin), along with some smart

electric guitar from Vince Gill. Also in the uptempo bracket there's 'Why You Come In Here Lookin' Like Taht' (B. Carlisle-R. Thomas), with Skaggs, Albert Lee (guitar solo) and cajun accordionist Jo-Ei Sonnier among the well balanced backing musicians.

Dolly also shines on a selection of delicate love ballads, 'Yellow Roses' and 'What Is It My Love' her own compositions are songs to listen to carefully too, with Dolly's vocals enjoying some fine steel support on the former while the latter is aided by orchestral strings, yet no less enjoyable for that. Mac Davis partners on 'Wait 'Til I Get You Home', showing what a natural blend they are, not surprising as they also co-wrote it. Ricky also takes a prominent hand on Jim Rushing's 'Slow Healing Heart', which appeared on Vern Gosdin's 1984 release 'There Is A Season', both beautifully delivered versions.

THE JUDDS

RIVER OF TIME
RCA/CURB ZL 74127

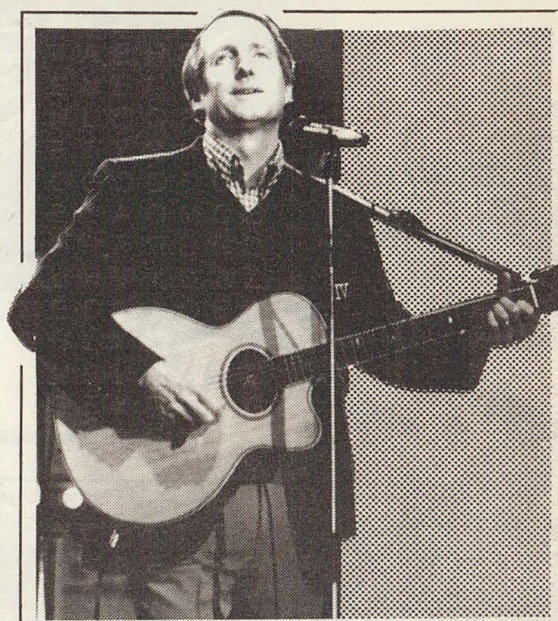
ONE MAN WOMAN: YOUNG LOVE: NOT MY BABY: LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT LOVE: SLEEPLESS NIGHTS: WATER OF LOVE: RIVER OF TIME: CADILLAC RED: GUARDIAN ANGEL.

The mother and daughter team, Naomi and Wynonna Judd should be well pleased with this their fourth album for RCA.

Once again there's some real quality material on show, with none better than 'Young Love' (Paul Kennerley-Kent Robbins), a recent number one in the US country charts enjoys some nice touches on the steel guitar (Sonny Garrish), fronted by Wynonna who tells the story of blossoming young love in a small country town. 'Guardian Angel' (J. Jarvis-N. Judd-D. Schlitz) likewise is something special, where the central characters are the loving grandparents of surprise guests on the album, rock'n'roll legend Carl Perkins allows us samples of his unique guitar licks on 'Let Me Tell You About Love', a most enjoyable rockabilly number, co-written with Kennerley and MAher, the latter once again produces.

The ladies are found in a tender thoughtful mood on 'River Of Time' (J. Jarvis-N. Judd), while 'Cadillac Red' enjoys far more drive with it's piano and dobro to the fore. Paul Kennerley also penned 'One Woman Man' where there's an interesting mix of country/rock/soul. Summing up, this is I feel another winner from the ladies, where they aren't frightened to try to vary the mix, which comes over most impressively apart from 'Sleepless Nights', a track I could have done without.

On tour —



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OCTOBER		
22nd Sunday	Butlins Festival, Ayr, Scotland.	Tel. 0243 585545
23rd Monday	Butlins Festival, Ayr, Scotland.	Tel. 0243 585545
24th Tuesday	City Hall, Hull.	Tel. 0793 610549
25th Wednesday	Wheelwrights CMC, Gloucester	Tel. 0452 25297
26th Thursday	Buckingham Community Centre.	Tel. 0296 73300
27th Friday	Pavilion Theatre, Gorleston, Yarmouth	Tel. 0493 780465
28th Saturday	To Be Advised	Tel. 0243 585545
29th Sunday	Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds	Tel. 0359 21407
30th Monday	Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds.	Tel. 0793 610549
31st Tuesday	Ferneham Hall, Farnham, Hants.	Tel. 0329 833404
NOVEMBER		
1st Wednesday	Fort Worth CMC, Woking.	Tel. 0483 233250
2nd Thursday	Butlins Festival, Bognor Regis, Sussex.	Tel. 0243 585545
3rd Friday	Springhead Recreation Centre, Northfleet, Kent	Tel. 0474 352615

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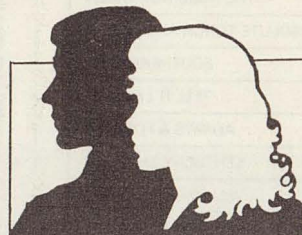
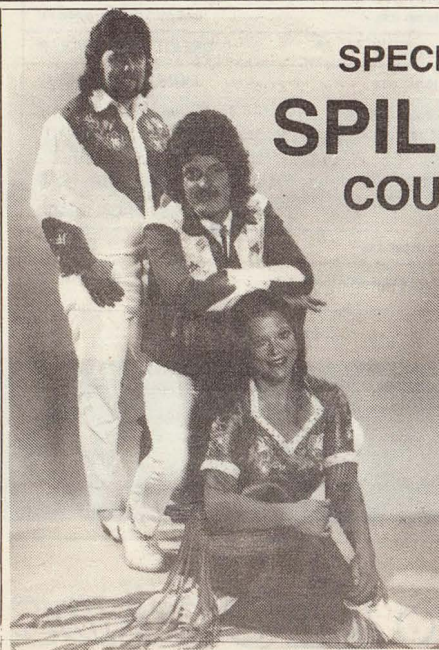
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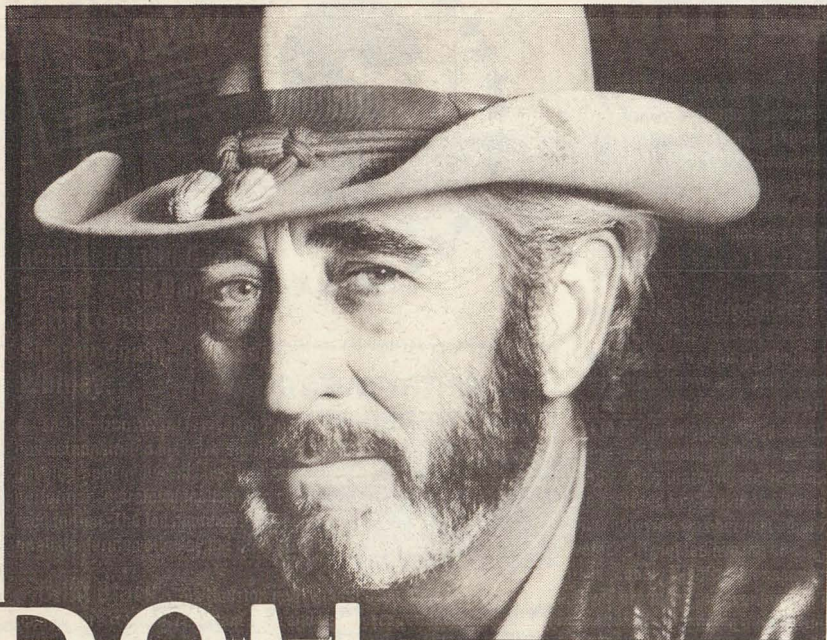
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ASGARD PRESENTS



DON Williams

OCTOBER			
18th	CROYDON Fairfield Hall	688-9291	
19th	POOLE Arts Centre	0202-685222	
21st	FOLKESTONE Leas Cliff Hall	0303-53193	
23rd	ABERDEEN Capitol	0224-588-345	
24th	GLASGOW SECC	031-557-6969	
25th	NEWCASTLE City Hall		
27th	LINCOLN Ritz	0522-546313	
28th	CAMBRIDGE Corn Exchange	0223-357851/463326	
29th	LONDON Dominion	01-580 9562	
NOVEMBER			
1st	STOCKPORT Davenport Theatre	061-483-3801/4181	
2nd	HARROGATE Centre	0423-564433	

MICK GREEN REPORTS:

BRITISH COUNTRY MUSIC ON THE WRONG TRACK

● ONE of the most important statements relating to trying to promote British country music I have ever read in the country press in Britain was in last month's 'Round Up'. No, it wasn't a major feature, in fact, it was tucked away on page 25 as the opening paragraph of Jim Duncan's West Midlands column and I am prepared to bet that the majority of readers of Country Music Round Up did not bother to read it.

● Because of that, and the fact that Jim currently plays more country music on radio than anyone else in Britain, I am repeating that paragraph here.

● One of the most frustrating things about doing a country show on the radio is the accusation 'you never play British acts'. We do, we do, honest, we do, when the product is available. I've a great album of the Folk and Voice Festival back in '68 with Ginny Brown on it (Little Ginny) and Ramblin Sid (Bryan) Charles, and a collection of other artists from the period '76-'81. After that the vinyl becomes very rare. Froggatt, Gerry Ford and occasionally Colorado and, of course, the successful Irish acts. You can't get air play with cheap cassettes, they sound awful, do nothing for the radio station, and even less for the artist. How can you interview an artist with no product?

● As far as I am concerned that sums it up! I am sick to death of agreeing with British bands and fans who continually tell me that our acts are as good as most American and yet they never get the breaks, but the fact is that they do not get the breaks because no one outside the small club circuit knows anything about them!

Why is it that bands that are so professional about their music, their equipment and are pedantic about getting their sound right to play for perhaps less than 200 people at a club gig make no real effort to get a decent recording of their music to a potential audience of hundreds of thousands?

● Basically you can write the best songs, play the finest music and have voices like angels but if only a handful of people are going to hear you then it is doubtful if much will happen. How many bands in 1989 would dream of going on a major stage without amplification? That is virtually what you are doing if you (a) have not got a decent recording of your songs or (b) have not got them to all available broadcasting/publicity outlets.

● Having said that I can almost see members of various bands all reaching for their pens saying how we don't understand how difficult it is! How much is costs! How they have done it in the past but got no reaction! I agree entirely, it is not easy, but it is almost more important to be professional off stage than on! You can sell an inferior product if you can get it to the market place but you cannot sell a brilliant one if it isn't on sale.

● Jim Duncan is not exaggerating the problem. The biggest trouble with the British country music scene is that acts either don't know how to, or do not persevere in, promoting themselves outside the local scene. They are too busy playing their music to follow up the all important business aspects.

● Apart from writing for Round Up, the past few years I have written virtually all the country music reviews, features and specials for 'The Stage and Television Today'. For those who don't know this weekly paper is considered by many as the Bible of the British entertainment world. Every major booker, agent, promoter and every municipal theatre manager, etc, at least glances through it regularly. In the course of the years I have written for them I have not had more than half a dozen records from any British acts and they were from the same names that Jim mentioned.

● I am often asked how it's decided what I should put in the Annual Country Music Special feature supplement The Stage publishes? The answer is quite simple . . . I do not go all round the country looking for acts. I write about the ones that get in touch with me. I write about the records I am sent. I have never had one record, for example, from either Barge or Stetson, so I can never comment. With the odd exception unless I meet a band at a gig. I never get any records sent me by British acts. But every week I get records sent at great cost from the States by obscure American acts that have bothered to find out where to reach me.

● I get invited on to radio programmes but I cannot take along, for example, a record by the Hillsiders or Kenny Johnson, I've never had one. And the same applies to so many of our other 'top' acts. I am not alone. Most radio presenters will say the same thing. Time and time again, they have to ask to promote your music. Yes, they have to ask! No chance. The world doesn't work that way. They will play what they get sent or the same old ones. If you don't

think it is worth the cost of a free album and the postage, why should they? After all, it's a tax deductible item for you, not them.

● One of the criticisms I have had aimed at me regarding Round Up is that it does not cover enough British records, but our editor Colin Kettle assures me that he does not get many either. He has always had a policy at Round Up (that will never alter) and that is that the cover is 'Not For Sale' and over the past year we have had four acts from the British scene featured there. All these acts make sure that everyone in the industry has their records and their latest publicity. Is it purely coincidence that they win awards, fill concert halls, get TV appearances, and therefore justify their appearance on the cover of Britain's most respected country music journal!

● Ask yourself, would anyone have heard of them without the publicity they had taken the time to promote. So if you are writing/singing/playing good country music then the least you can do to gain publicity is to get a decent record (not cassette) into every radio station and to all the specialist publications in the country.

● I appreciate that it may be quite profitable in the short term to make cheap gig tapes for the club scene and I think the British club scene is very important. It's still where most of our acts cut their musical teeth, in the same way that in the old days the stars learnt their craft at the local music halls. But there is a lot more money to be earned outside that specific scene and 90 per cent of the entertainment bookers out there do not know about you! Another advantage if you can get work outside the recognised scene is that it means you do not have to go to the well of the same specialist clubs too often. To get this work you will need decent products and its exposure to those offering it.

● The biggest cost to a band that really wants to take itself seriously is the time. Time for sending the product out, time for writing the necessary letters, time for arranging follow-up interviews. An act travelling full time on the road may not have that time and may not be able to afford to have someone do it for them. But it really is just as important, and far less costly than that vital studio time. Although all things considered the cost of producing an acceptable record nowadays is relatively cheap and there are far more studios available than there were ten years ago, so it need not cost an arm and a leg!

● When some friends and I decided to make an album of our own songs a few years ago we had to cut a lot of corners but we managed to make the project self-funding and we never actually played a gig anywhere to promote and sell it. Another benefit was because all the songwriters registered with PRS we are still getting royalties in. The actual cost of production was almost matched by the postage for sending all the albums out, but we endeavoured to make sure that every radio station and every employ outlet we could think of, got one. As is the way in the entertainment business the majority were ignored, but those that did support it made it viable . . . and it is still being played occasionally. It did not make us a lot of money but I assure you at least it was self-funding.

● For a working artist/act the chances of a monetary return are that much better, as they can sell them at gigs, get royalties off the radio stations and if club promoters hear your music on their local radio stations you may have a better chance of getting bookings in that area. And there is always the outside chance that someone who can really help you will hear it and be impressed. (You may have more chance of winning the pools but at least if you have vinyl available you have entered the competition.)

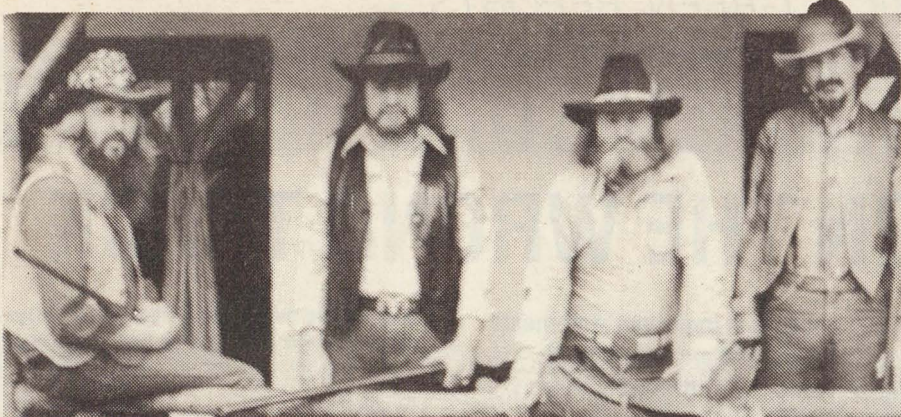
Can We Help?

● The Editor has always spent a lot of time trying to find ways to help the British country bands, the scene generally. Country Music Round Up would like to increase its coverage of home grown products and we are prepared to guarantee that record albums by British bands will be reviewed. Send them to Round Up's office and we will get one of our reviewers to give an opinion on it. We only want current albums not something that was recorded a decade ago.

● Currently we are planning to move the offices to East Anglia and if this is successful I plan to have a retail outlet for country music generally and we will be prepared to sell your albums there on S.O.R. not only direct but offer a mail order service to CMRU readers.

● If the above move takes place we may also be able to offer other services like artwork for album sleeves/covers and would be able to advise as to what specialist information ought to be included. Plus, if it is required, we could arrange a mail shot so that the record gets to every (or selected at your choice) radio country DJ and specialist publication outlet. We will also be able to provide any other particular printing that you might want done, ie handbills, cards, etc.

● This is but a small step but it would mean that if you make an album then at least you will have outlets for publicity and retail. Don't forget that it will not be many years before vinyl is faded out and you will be expected to supply CDs with all the extra cost, but in the meantime, you can send the albums for review now but we will not be in a position to handle the other matters until a later date, to be advised (watch this space).



COALS TO NEWCASTLE

● Britain's most 'authentic' looking band of country outlaws are without doubt Norfolk-based group Nashville Fever. This motley crew, at first glance, could give you the impression that they are just a set of Willie Nelson clones, but don't judge the book by its cover . . . these guys have got what it takes to do the business and you would be hard pressed to find any more originality and commitment to doing their own thing in any country music band, anywhere in the world. This ugly collection of 'pussy cats' have individually and collectively served their dues over and over and have earned the respect not only of their peers but now have an ever growing fan following throughout the UK and Europe, but as success for country music acts in Europe is still pretty limited they have decided to take their own brand of original songs and showmanship 'Deep Into The Heart Of Texas' in the hope of attaining that still elusive breakthrough into the big time.

● Colin Ford, Roy Bell, Ken Dunning and Ali Thorn will be door knocking their way across Texas and Tennessee throughout the month of September.

● 'There's no guarantee that we will crack it and we are too long in the tooth to expect anything to drop out of the sky . . . but we believe in ourselves and love what we do and as always, we will be doing it our way,' says Colin Ford. 'We don't pretend to be anything we aren't, we are the characters you see, it's our life and it's only a matter of time before we make it,' adding pensively, 'although we could be driving bath chairs when it happens!'

● Spend any time at all talking with Nashville Fever and you will find their attitude infectious. Let us hope that one month in America is enough to start the epidemic.

● Good luck fellas!

UK COUNTRY TELEVISION NEWS

● A number of Country Music TV shows are set for transmission during the coming months. Here are just nine projects: BBC2 have announced the transmission dates for this year's series of 'Sing Country'. Reflecting the 1989 Wembley Country Music Festival promoted by Mervyn Conn, they are produced for TV by Dave Perrottet and presented by Country Music DJ David Allan. The first three programme 'specials' started on Tuesday, August 22nd with Tammy Wynette, followed by Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter then Buck Owens in the third week. The eight 30-minute shows are scheduled to run every Tuesday at 8 pm.

● Other artists included in the subsequent programmes include Boxcar Willie, Bobby Bare, Earl Thomas Conley, Asleep At The Wheel, Suzy Bogguss, Billy Walker, Townes Van Zandt and Lorrie Morgan,

together with artists from this side of the Atlantic such as Poacher, Bob Newman and Carole Gordon and Susan McCann. The fourth programme of the series will include a tribute to the late Keith Whitley.

● For further details contact BBC Press Office, Television Centre, on 01-743 8000.

● A new six part series produced by Artifax for Channel Four starts in November. Hosted by Hank Wangford the one hour shows have a working title of 'Heart Of The Country' and feature a number of musical areas including honky tonk, gospel, women in country, and south of the border.

● The Landscape Channel hope to start a Country Chart Show in the autumn produced by Country Music Television in the US.

★ Stan Perry of Stockport is 71 years young and a great fan of country music, particularly of the late, great Jim Reeves.

Stan would like to know where he could obtain recordings of Bjoro Haaland and would it be possible to print an updated 'Radio Guide to Country Music'?

Thanks a lot for your interesting letter Stan. In respect of Bjoro, try Ryan's Country, 35 Hall Street, Penrycae, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL14 2RU, telephone 0978 841075, or Bob Powell's Record Shop, 78 Groveland's Road, St. Paul's Cray Orpington, Kent, BR5 3EE, telephone 01-309 7606. Don't forget to mention CMRU. Ref Radio Guide: We hope to have a revised listing shortly as there have been many changes in the last 12 months.

Tom Jones of Gwynedd (no, surely it can't be!) asks where he might obtain current Irish country tapes and Raymond Froggatt tapes.

Try the addresses given above, Tom.

Tony Wilkinson of Essex watched TV in a motel in the States and was impressed by a number called 'Lucky 13' on Epic Records by Johnny (second name unknown). Can we help?

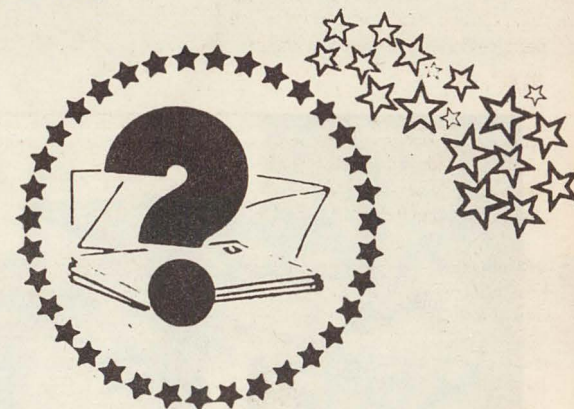
Yes, this is one for you my friends, and we will be surprised if this one can be identified.

Alexandra Hughes of Liverpool would be obliged for Don Williams fan club address.

The address I have has proved out of date Alexandra. I am awaiting revised information which I will include next month. In the meantime, you might try Don's new record company RCA/E&GM, 1 Bedford Avenue, London WC1 3DT.

New Information

Our reader who wants the Brenda Lee song 'It's Never Too Late', a track from the Ace Of Hearts album, AH 59, may be interested to know that I have found a dealer with a mint collection of the album for sale at a reasonable price. Contact us A.S.A.P.



COUNTRY QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY PETE SMITH AND FRIENDS

Records Required

Merle Haggard 'To All The Girls I've Loved Before' (Premier PMP 10003).
Selwyn and Shirley Cox 'Country and Western Style' (Pilgrim JLP 166).
Bread And Butter 'Images' (Blow Up AX 7309).
Geoff Whitehorn 'Whitehorn' (Stateside ISS 80164).
Lee Dresser 'To Touch The World' (Bella Linda BLA 1A/1B).
Tony Sheridan: an Italian album, title unknown.
Country Fever 'Fire On My Mind' (Decca single).
Derek Lawrence Statement 'I'm A Preacher' (Bell 789).
Black Claw 'Sally' (Bell 1089).
Rosie Flores 'I'm Walkin'' (RCA single).
Johnny Duncan and The Kingpins 'Will You Be Mine' (Columbia single).
Jerry Lee Lewis 'Jack Daniels Old Number 7' (Mercury 6052 378).
Gordon Lightfoot 'Did She Mention My Name' (United Artists album).
Glen Sherley, a single recorded in Folsom Prison (not included on the Nashville International Album).
Carroll Baker 'Canadian Mounted Police' (album or single).

Santo and Johnny 'Come September' (album or single).

The Cheers 'Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots' (album or single).
Gene Watson 'Gene Watson' (Wide World WWS 2002) and 'Because You Believed In Me' (Capitol St 11529).

Info Required

Singer/songwriters Bobby Borchers/Steve Rhymer/Sand Mason (Theoret)/Willis Allan Ramsey. Singers Rose Brennan/Sue Terry/Diane Pfeifer and Kreg Nance who sang in the movie 'Motel Hell'.

Miscellaneous

Albert Lee: Any 'live' audio or video tapes.
Emmylou Harris: Audio tape of Wembley 1977 performance.
Ace In The Hole: A full discography.
Waylon Jennings: Any 'live' recordings.
And what is that song with the line 'I'm the son of a sailor and the sea's in my blood', a late 40s/early 50s recording.

Country Music
ROUND UP

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But don't waste time, your subscription must be with us by the first of next month

○○○○○

For the subscription rates see elsewhere in this publication.

Last month's winner:

Mr. F. R. Green, Osric Court, Danes Close, Peterborough
As his prize Mr. Green will receive The Judds 'River Of Time' album

Two Sides Of The 'Country'

IN RECENT weeks I have seen shows by artists many people in country music consider at the forefront of new country music acts that the British fans have been asked to take to their hearts over the past three years. In some ways they are quite similar, but the differences are tremendous.

- Both are American and both come from outside the mainstream of country music over there. Both were unknown... of just over three years ago and when they first appeared in Britain they concentrated on building up a following at the smaller venues.

- Both present virtually all original material and both have quite unique sounds unlike that produced by any other band. Both too, have now had three albums released in this country and both have been struggling, to have their own particular form of music accepted. But there the similarities end.

- The names of the two acts are: Lyle Lovett with his large band and Pinto Bennett and his Famous Motel Cowboys, and its the differences between these two acts that probably says more about the British country scene than the similarities.

- Strangely enough of the two shows I saw there was possibly more people at the Pinto one than the Lyle concert, but that was a 'freebie' in the open air in Norfolk, whereas Lyle's took place at London's prestigious Dominion, Tottenham Court Road.

By
MICK GREEN

- Since those early days when they both started over here both have taken very different routes. Pinto has developed a strong following on the established country music club circuit whereas Lyle has been looking for, and finding, a much younger audience not readily associated by the media with country music. Lyle too has had the added benefit of being included in one of the CMA's Discover New Country, package Route 88 style campaign and this has obviously paid off because his record company, MCA, were obviously much better

placed to distribute and launch a campaign behind him than Pinto's small budget label.

- Lyle is not only in the country music charts in Britain but, much more important, he is also showing strongly in America where his current album with his 'large' Band has entered the top twenty. This is another one of the major differences between them, Pinto still cannot get those all-important air plays and distribution, therefore, is virtually still unknown in his own country. This I feel is sad because, in my opinion, Pinto is much more country than Lyle will ever be.

- Both shows involved me in a long drive and, despite some disappointments, both were well worth the trip and if you like your country 'country' but original then I advise you to watch out for Pinto Bennett. If you want to meet the real *Alt*-native of alternative country you will not be able to go much further than Lyle Lovett!



Lyle At The Dominion

- The last country act that played this venue was Reba McEntire, a much, much bigger star in America than Lyle Lovett, yet she only attracted a few hundred people. I'm told Lyle sold out the venue totally (including standing room) two nights running... I doubt if more than a handful of country acts would do that. But I also doubt if there were more than a couple of hundred people present who would consider themselves country music fans.

- Lyle Lovett is in both the current British and American country music charts but if it is country music I'm sure it's not a style that would be recognised by regular country club fans and really is something different for most of them to discover. Personally I don't think those type of fans will ever discover it and it is obvious that Lyle has found his own, much younger, market.

- Looking like a young Gene Vincent with a distinctive hairstyle, singing songs like no other, I have ever heard, with a band using a cello as a lead instrument, and a delivery so laid back that he makes Don Williams look like Speedy Gonzales... with huge gaps in the music as he tells the audience about the songs, the whole show should not work yet it was totally fascinating and he got a great reception.

- Country, well I'd say it ain't, but unique it most certainly is. Which is just as well because the Friday show was delayed half an hour at least and the impatient crowd were slow handclapping by the time he started but 'Here I Am' which included as much talking as singing won over the audience straight away. When analysed the lyrics don't always seem to make sense

but the way he presents them has an hypnotic charm. Others like 'She's No Lady' and 'The Man. That I Am' are much easier to understand.

- The music is generally of a slower or more gentle tempo and having seen just one concert by Lyle Lovett it seems we are privy to everything he likes and dislikes, yet I came away wondering just what makes the man tick and what influences him to write some of the peculiar songs he does. Perhaps that is the attraction that made me want to see him again?

- I don't profess to understand his music and at times I felt it was a bit like the King's New Clothes and I wanted to shout out he's not wearing (saying) anything. Then he comes up with a song that is really charming. The young crowd on the night I attended obviously loved him and I predict that Lyle Lovett will either be very very big or will be forgotten as quickly as the hula hoops. He is that different... I mean, who else sings jolly songs about funerals and announces a singalong song and deliberately plays something no one can singalong to?

- Lyle Lovett? Some people say 'You Can't Resist It' and 'Why I Don't Know, Farther Down The Line' if it is 'God's Will' and he continues to give fans 'An Acceptable Level Of Ecstasy' this 'Cowboy Man' may become a major star and make plenty of 'M-O-N-E-Y' but I don't personally think it will be in the country music market.

- Club promoters will not have to make a decision whether to book him at their clubs because he is probably already out of their price range.



Pinto At Kings Lynn

- This is a free festival sponsored by more than 100 local businesses and takes place every year in July at various open-air locations in the town. There are six nights featuring all different types of music and this year Tuesday night was 'Country Night' in the Market Place. The setting is superb with two huge trailers used as a stage in the town square and all the hotels and pubs in the surrounding area opened up for the sale of drinks and there were special food stalls with barbeque, etc. Many locals brought their own camping chairs but the majority of us just stood, or walked around, on the lovely hot evening. Big, mobile, crowds like this are hard to judge but it was estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 people attended on the night concerned.

- The show was opened by Greta and the Strayshots with 'Going Gone' and it was obvious from the off that she could have been singing about the sound system because it was clearly suspect. It improved slightly but it was unfortunately to be 'One Step Forward, Two Steps Back' because 'Somewhere Tonight' a gremlin had got in the system and by the time they had got to their sixth number 'Workington's Blues' turned into the sound of silence! When I first saw this band some years ago they were young and full of energy but pretty rough around the edges. They are still young and full of energy but the presentation is so much better and it is great to see youngsters playing the sort of country music that is very much on offer as we enter the 1990s. Look out for them.

- Incidentally, all those 'stalwart' older country fans from the Kent and South London area might be interested to know that Reg Levin's son, Tommy, plays lead guitar with the Strayshots.

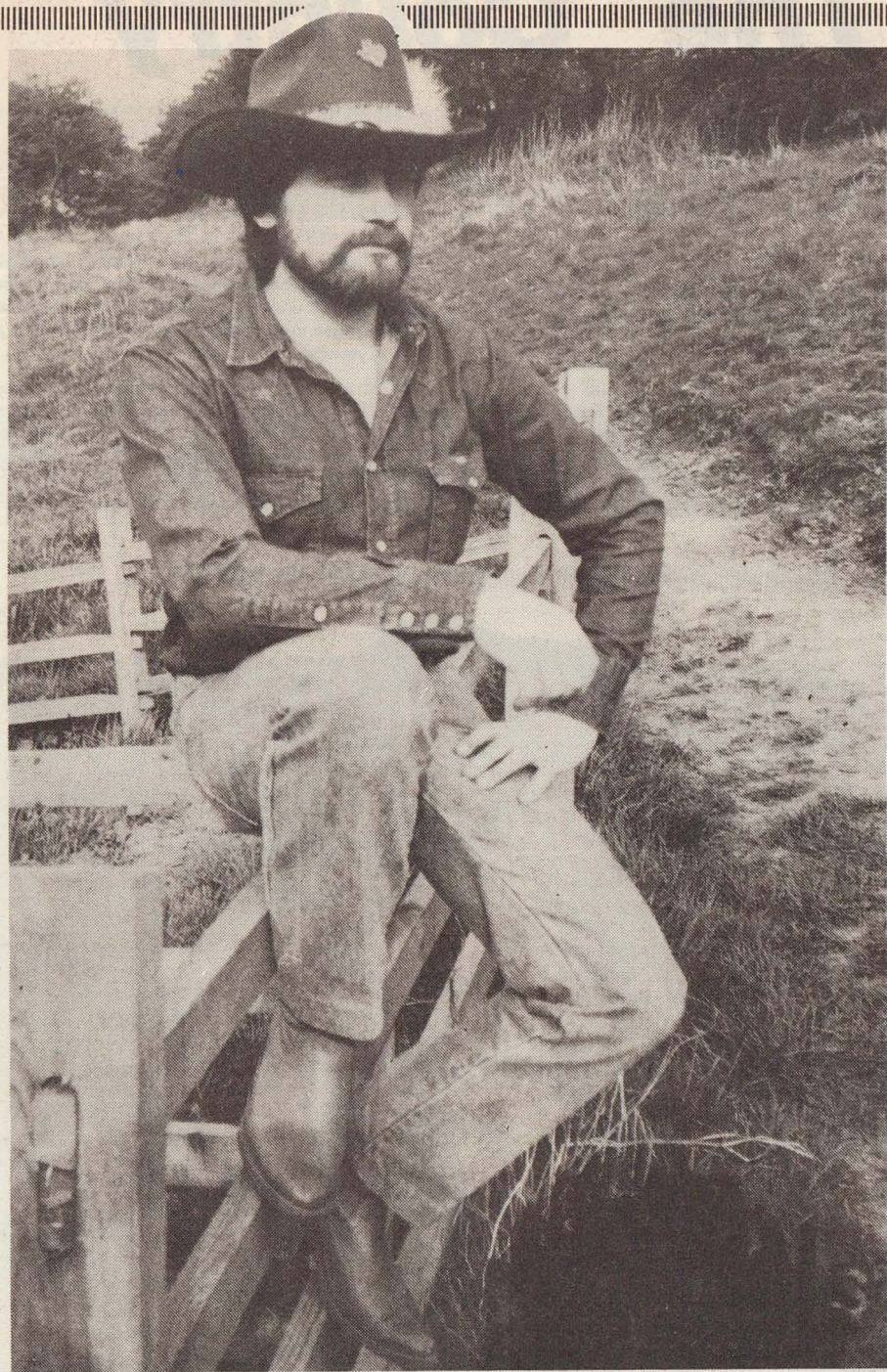
- It was disappointing that Greta was unable to continue although a swarm of sound engineers struggled to rectify the problem whilst the Radio Norfolk Roadshow hosted by Roy Waller had the difficult task of keeping the sizeable crowd happy.

- By the time the system was partially repaired it was too late to bring back the opening act so Pinto Bennett and His Famous Motel Cowboys came on, but even they were to be eight songs into their 24-song set before power suddenly burst forth.

- With all original songs that 90 per cent of those present had never heard before, it was vital that the crowd could hear clearly what was being presented and I felt that initially they lost a bit of impact, but when full power was restored they gained much more atmosphere. However, it must be said that Pinto himself is only half the man he used to be. He has been on a diet and lost more than 40 pounds!

- The band had exactly the same personnel as toured the UK the first time and that says something. Some groups seem to change line-ups more often than their underwear! Among the songs included, 'Carolina Morning' was also around on that first tour and so was that superb interplay of the twin lead guitars that gives this band their unique sound.

- A really entertaining band that I can recommend to any club presenter... even though virtually all the songs are originals. You can book this band 'No Sweat'.



John Lowndes

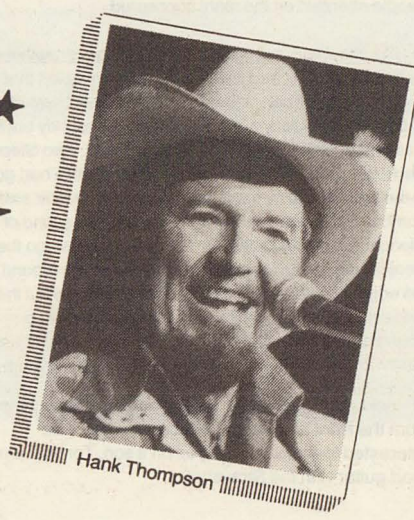
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL VIRGOS AND LIBRAS

INCLUDING

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1st | CONWAY TWITTY and BOXCAR WILLIE |
| 3rd | HANK THOMPSON |
| 6th | LYNN POWELL, DAVID ALLAN COE and MEL McDANIEL |
| 8th | HARLAN HOWARD and MERLE KILGORE |
| 9th | FREDDY WELLER |
| 10th | TOMMY OVERSTREET |
| 12th | GEORGE JONES |
| 13th | BILL MONROE |
| 15th | ROY ACUFF |
| 16th | DAVID BELLAMY (Bellamy Brothers) |
| 19th | SYLVIA TYSON |
| 21st | DICKEY LEE and KENNY STARR |
| 23rd | RAY CHARLES |
| 25th | IAN TYSON and ROYCE KENDALL (The Kendalls) |
| 26th | LYNN ANDERSON, CARLENE and DAVID FRIZZELL |
| 28th | TOMMY COLLINS |
| 29th | JERRY LEE LEWIS and GENE AUTRY |

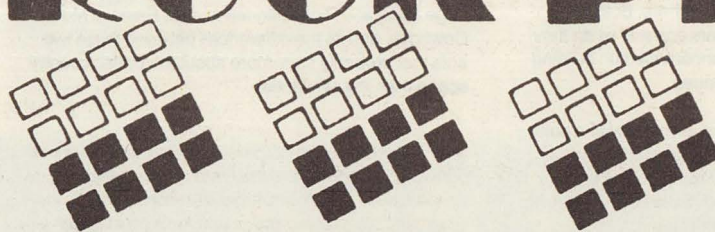


Lynn Anderson



Hank Thompson

Country Rock Pile



I ALWAYS get a kick out of genuine British country talent. So I was doubly thrilled to hear news of two young performers, who, coincidentally, live quite close to each other, who are making their mark on the domestic scene.

● John Lowndes, an excellent songwriter, has had one of his songs, 'Dust And Dark', covered by the award winning trio Spill The Beans, and further songs are being considered by other artists. John allowed me the privilege of hearing his latest composition, 'Song For Jessica', and I can tell you it's a knockout! The song was written to commemorate the birth of John's first child.

● Gary Perkins is a name that is probably new to you. Gary has been working hard over the last decade to develop his skills to become a first class country singer. Has he achieved this? Well Gary Perkins sure knows how to entertain and he has a voice second to none and I think he's assured of a big future.

● Barry Glynn, who hails from Derbyshire, has a good cassette currently on release. Barry's a vastly experienced performer who has played such varied stages as the Royal Albert Hall, American cruisers and stateside venues, pays homage to the 'King', Elvis Presley, on the anniversary of his death. To Glynn this was obviously a labour of love. He sets the mood with Elvis' own introductory music, 'Also Sprach Zarathustra', then launches into twelve tracks that are both interesting and very well performed. This is not the usual collection of Presley hits, more a dozen songs that Glynn enjoys singing and which he learned from Elvis albums. Tracks include: 'You Needed Me', 'You Gave Me A Mountain', 'Song Sung Blue', 'American Trilogy', 'Are You Lonesome Tonight'. Incidentally, the tape is entitled 'Trilogy'. (Nice one Barry!)

● Bradford's Alan Cameron now has his third cassette available. Entitled 'In My Dreams', the tape features twelve songs, all written by Alan displaying just what a talented guy he is.

● Ireland's Mary Duff has set the domestic scene alight by winning the '1989 Euro Country Music Masters' and beating all comers from both east and west Europe. Mary, who undertakes another UK tour during October and November, has a single on release entitled 'One Bird On A Wing' and her second Ritz album is set for release this month.

● As I write this month's column, Irish superstar Daniel O'Donnell is sitting comfortably at the top of the British charts with 'From The Heart'. Now he's to undertake yet another UK tour in October and November, playing 41 shows in 48 days. But before this Daniel will tape a series of one hour shows for RTE TV. I'm told negotiations are underway for mainland screening.

● 'Kentucky Thunder', Ricky Skaggs' latest and strongest album for some time, is now on British release. The album had already yielded one top Billboard single, 'Loving Only Me'.

● Swindon based agent/booker Lee Williams has a couple of international acts to take us through 1989. Canadian Terry Sumson does the rounds with his own band from the 20th of this month through the first week in October and for a week toward the end of November there's Tex-Mex legend Freddy Fender supported by the Peter Hill Band from Holland. For next year Lee has already arranged a couple of tours featuring rockabilly favourites Eddie Bond and the Dave Travis Band and a return of the very popular Robert Joe Vandygriff with his S.O.C. band.

● Rare country blues recordings continue to get a British airing thanks to Blue Moon Records. 'Master Of The Blues', a compilation of a dozen Blind Lemon Jefferson cuts from the 1926 to 1929 period, is a gem. Tracks include 'Lectric Chair Blues', 'How Long, How Long', 'Where Shall I Be' and 'Rambler Blues'. Jefferson was a friend to and influence on Huddie Leadbetter (Leadbelly) and could quite reasonably be named 'King of the Country Blues'. 'Love Changin' Blues', a bunch of 1949 recordings, features mainly the superb Blind Willie McTell and the often overlooked Memphis Minnie (a.k.a. Mammie Smith). Of McTell's six tracks possibly 'Pal Of Mine' is of most interest in that it seems to be directly influenced by Jimmie Rodgers. Minnie's five songs include two versions of 'Night Watchman Blues'. Almost as if to make up the numbers,



Pete Smith

a track of tremendous value has been added. This concerns one Jimmy Rogers (not to be confused with the so-called 'Father of Country Music') performing his 'Ludella' with backing from Little Walter (harp), Muddy Waters (guitar) and Big Crawford (bass). More of this please!

● Changing direction once again, Jim Murphy, Hank Williams unofficial historian, has a couple of his originals on the Comstock label. 'The Great Hank Williams Show' documents life on the road, whilst 'A Feeling Called The Blues' relates some of the sad times experienced by Hank. Murphy does not set out to imitate Williams, though both these songs could easily have been written by him. An interesting issue. Another Comstock artist, singer/songwriter Ray Dean James, keeps those feet tapping with his own composition 'Downhome'. The flip 'On The Outside Looking In' is a slice of honky tonk. Real country that deserves to do well.

● I started the column with our homegrown artists and I shall finish the same way. Tennessee Moon, the duo from West Yorkshire featuring the fine voice of Mary Miller, has a cassette on release entitled 'At Your Request'. As the title suggests the ten tracks are concert favourites and therefore pretty standard. For example: 'Crazy', 'Six Days On The Road', 'Jolene' and 'Rose Garden'.



Pinkerton Colours

● Pinkerton Colours debut country release (it's been a long time coming) is the ten track cassette 'Heading West'. Strong lead vocals from Tony Newman, ably supported by Phil Clough, Mike Somerton and Pete Robbins. A most enjoyable tape from one of Britain's very best outfits. Tracks include 'Lovin' Her Was Easier', 'Ocean Front Property', 'I'm Still Crazy About You' and 'Houston'.

● John Grame Livingstone is unusual in British country music. His style of writing and performing is contemporary, somewhat esoteric and I feel, deeply spiritual. The dozen songs on the cassette 'House Full Of Strangers' are finely crafted, poetic and thought provoking. A brave step into the future which deserves much encouragement and I hope, great success.

● That's it for this time. Till next, remember there are stars in the southern sky.



YOUR LINE OF COUNTRY

Dear Editor

Our main reason for taking CMRU over the years was to find out the dates of the outdoor country music events, ie, Peterborough, Wembley, Harlow, etc. Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking CMRU, it's very interesting, keeps you up to date, so that you know what's happening. One of our favourites was Oakerthorpe, probably because it was nearest and that is where it began.

We just got 'priced out', if we could afford the festival prices we would still take CMRU so you see 'it's not you, it's them'. So we just have to stick to local gigs. Anyway,

All the best for the future, Bob and Mary Drake, Rowley Village, Warley, West Midlands.

PS—When we went to Corby's Sunday Fun Day I only had to show my dole card and I got in half price . . . and the country bands played in the open.

Eds Comment: What do you feel about the prices at Festivals? Is everything getting too expensive?

Dear Editor

We have to write to express our thanks to Inverness Country Club for a great festival at the Bowling Centre, Inverness. From Friday night to Sunday night we enjoyed every minute of it.

The stars of the shows Mary Duff, Seamus McGee, Gerry Ford, John C. King, etc, etc, will leave us with great memories of a great weekend. We will be back next year for more of the same.

Thank you all again, Yours in country, Ian and Margaret Bain, Irvine Road, Ayr, Scotland.

Dear Editor

May-I through CMRU take this opportunity in congratulating Mike and Avril of the Silverado CMC at Bury on their wedding, Friday, August 4th, and for the invitation extended to us. I am sure I speak for all who attended the evening in thanking Randy Blue and Deepwater for once again an

excellent night of country music and to Bob Roberts and Sundown for their guest spot. Just like old times, Bob.

Good luck Mike and Avril for the future,

Ged and Jean, Bredbury.

Dear Editor

May we, through your magazine, wish Tony Rouse a speedy recovery. Tony and the Circle T Band were due to appear at our club on July 18th. Sadly, Tony was taken ill with glandular fever on the Sunday before and had to be rushed into hospital. A very big thank you must go to Greta and the Stray Shots for coming to our rescue at very short notice.

When Greta and the Boys heard that Tony had been taken ill they travelled all the way to Essex to make it a really great night at the Yellow Rose.

Our best wishes to all, Get well soon Tony.

Yellow Rose CMC, Plough and Harrow, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Dear Editor

Thank you for printing my letter for the Roy Orbison song 'It Takes All Kinds Of People' from the film 'The Ballad Of The Moonshine'. Although I was looking for the sound track from the film (as Hank Williams Jnr is also featured on it) I am very grateful for the information supplied by Derek from Edinburgh and Dennis from Stockton-on-Tees.

I had tried all the record shops round here for the sound track of the film with no success, and so with the information kindly supplied, I'll at least be able to get the song on one of Roy Orbison's albums you mentioned.

E. Carroll, Orchard Park Road, Hull, North Humberside.

Dear Editor

Dear Editor

In-laws met outlaws at a shotgun, Winchester and Colt 45 wedding in Morecambe recently.

Two members of 'The Rebels', a cowboy club from the wild North West who stage shoot-outs at Frontierland Western Theme Park, were hitched.

And every last person present at the wedding at St John's Church, Heysham, and the Crazy Horse Saloon, Frontierland, reception was dressed in full Mexican bandit, cowboy or indian dress.

Joanne Hare, 23, and Simon Attwood, 24, travelled from the church to the Crazy Horse Saloon by stage coach. They were greeted by a whooping great bunch of cowboys, bandits and indians before a noisy pistol and musket guard of honour into the reception.

Said bride's mother Joan Hare: 'it seemed the obvious theme for the wedding. Every weekend we stage charity shoot-outs in full cowboy outfits in Frontierland so we decided to make it a shotgun wedding — in the nicest possible sense.'

The Rebels donate their fee to local Lancashire charities, last year they donated £1,000 to Lancaster Royal Infirmary amongst others.

Iain Macauley, CAS Limited, Silverwood House, Barlow Moor Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8PP.

Dear Editor

My Name is Anthony Sullivan, I am eighteen years old, I live nine miles from Glasgow, I am interested in playing country music. I play the guitar reasonably well, though I can't read music. I also like rock'n'roll.

I was hoping you could assist me in finding a group to play with around the Glasgow area. Yours hopefully,

Anthony Sullivan, Woodlands Terrace, Bothwell, Glasgow.



Please

KEEP letters short.

Write on one side of the paper only. Letters written on both sides will not be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing and submission will be taken to imply acceptance of that condition.

The Editors



Dear Editor

At last my patience has finally run out. I am so incensed by the present format of country music in Britain that I had to put pen to paper.

I am a professional musician presently playing in a successful country music band. First of all may I try to define the unfortunate term 'country and western'. This title has led to a complete misinterpretation by the British public that country music is linked to the western way of life.

The untold damage done to our music by this misrepresentation has deterred so many people from becoming interested.

The country music fans who insist on bedecking themselves in various forms of cowboy outfits and civil war uniforms have done more damage to the image of our music than they will ever realise.

When the music takes second place to the dressing up we must question the depth of enjoyment that these people derive from the music.

I list some examples of comments and statements made to myself and other musicians by these people to highlight my previous statement, e.g.,

'My name is Arthur Smith but you can call me Johnny Ringo.'

'I must be the leading authority on country music in Britain, I have every record that Marty Robbins ever made.'

'Can you tell me which knee to bend during the Trilogy ceremony.'

And perhaps the saddest statement of all made to myself recently . . . 'Its the dressing up that makes it'.

Perhaps I have been under a false illusion all these years that it's the songs and the people who perform country music that are important.

I beg these people whose idea of country music is firing guns and fantasising about a way of life that the vast majority of them know nothing about, take their dreams and weapons somewhere else, and allow the people who want to enjoy our music to do so in relative normality.

It is a sad fact that country music is beset with mediocre performers whose ability would not be accepted elsewhere. However this is brought about by the reluctance of the paying public to subscribe to realistic admission prices at clubs, etc.

In today's world nobody gives anything for nothing and if the support from the audiences by way of income is not forthcoming the clubs and venues are forced to budget their expenditure and therefore the quality of entertainment drops, this in turn has the knock on effect of poor attendances forcing the venue to eventually run down and close.

Bear in mind that the finance in British country music is entirely self-generated as no organizations will risk sponsorship or investment as they do in America, perhaps this is another result of the image portrayed.

Try to imagine the cost of presenting and organising well-run events and clubs and maybe that extra charge on admission could be the difference between survival and closure.

The professional artists in Britain are like everyone else, they have mortgages and commitments to their families, and like everyone else they expect wage increases every so often.

Most fans don't see the hard work and commitment of musicians that goes on behind a successful band resulting in long hours spent rehearsing and travelling etc. . . . but please believe our income is probably no more less deserved than yours.

My reasons for writing this letter are not in any way aimed at upsetting any particular segment of country music followers in Britain but to highlight some of the

things that upset and deter, in my opinion, a lot of new fans, who would, but for these become part of a much larger audience, and to those people who take offence at my remarks re dressing up . . . next time you doff your stetson and place your hand on your heart to salute the Confederate flag remember that you are paying homage to a civil war in which thousands of men and women died horribly and in great pain for the purpose of retaining other human beings in slavery. And when next you hear the words of that memorable song penned by a British songwriter 'didn't we have fun at the battle of Bull Run' please remember that men died in agony by the thousand during this bloody conflict. I honestly do not think that anybody involved had much fun.

Please try to remember that country music is for dancing. Listening and having a good time not an ongoing requiem for an age that in no way affected the life we have in Britain today.

To all those people who would like to be part of country music in Britain come and enjoy our music as you would any other form of entertainment.

Who knows we may even persuade the national media to take a more serious look at country music rather than treat it as the joke they do so at the moment.

The image that they present to the British public in general is of a fancy dress parade and scant regard is paid to the quality and talent that abounds within our shores performing country music.

Please open your ears and minds to the country music of the 80s and let's bury the past both in musical taste and dress. If this does not happen in the near future country music in Britain will die of mediocrity and the crystal chandeliers will most certainly light up the shadows on the wall.

So as a final plea from a performer and devoted country music fanatic please think about the music for the future and to all those people who want to be Billy The Kid and Belle Starr . . . good luck to your dreams, but please try and make them come true away from country music.

These are purely my personal thoughts but I sure that there are many people, both artists and fans, who I hope can understand what I am trying to say. I dearly want our music to flourish and thrive but all I see at present is a quagmire into which it is sinking at an alarming rate.

During a trip to the USA it was a refreshing experience to attend country music concerts and events and see casually dressed Americans enjoying their music without feeling the need to sport firearms and carry flags.

Just to be part of an audience of 10,000 people (yes, 10,000) on a warm summer's night in an open-air venue listening to one of the modern greats of country music was a magical experience never to be forgotten, no shoot-outs . . . no ceremonies . . . just pure enjoyment and appreciation of the tremendous music being performed.

Fortunately there are promoters and club organisers who do believe that music is of prime importance and not just a background for a fancy dress party or a firearms convention. Please support these individuals as I believe that their ideas are the only salvation within a medium that is rapidly being taken over by persons whose appreciation of country music is limited to say the least.

I have written this rather lengthy letter in view of an incident that happened to me recently at a venue.

An individual dressed in some form of uniform thrust a scrap of paper at me on stage requesting the 'The Trilogy' which is not included in our repertoire, I explained to the audience that we did not know this particular song and closed the performance in our usual manner.

On leaving the stage I was confronted by the aforementioned person and told in no uncertain terms that my credentials as an artist were in question because if my inability to perform one five minute song. I did not reply to this verbal attack but sat in the dressing room and felt that many years of hard work and dedication to the performing of country music had gone down the drain.

C. V. Richardson, Donalson Drive, Paston, Peterborough.



A LITTLE BYRD TOLD ME...

by Pete Coffey

● An impending UK tour by the Byrds! When his with that news, this Libran felt his birthdays all coming at once, particularly after hearing David Crosby proclaim his intentions of bringing the original line-up back together. My assumptions were incorrect, and I would warn others that Roger McGuinn, Chris Hillman, Gene Clark and David Crosby will not feature on the October tour. In fact I think between the touring Byrds and the original Byrds — or, for that matter, any subsequent Byrds — are, to say the least, small. Except that they will presumably sing Byrds songs, they begin and end with drummer Michael Clark — in the nest from the start, and back for the ill-fated 1973 reunion flight — and bassist Skip Battin — an early seventies fledgling. The rest of the line-up is newly hatched and never soared Eight Miles High. I do not say that this band will not be worth seeing, although I disagree with the use of the name, but forewarned is forewarned and prevents disappointment!

● Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers — currently trekking across the USA — have a UK tour pencilled for later in the year. In the meantime, Petty's new single is 'Runnin' Down A Dream' (MCA), which will hopefully emulate the chart success of 'I Won't Back Down' and the album 'Full Moon Fever'. B-side of the 7-inch is another album track, 'Alright For Now', while 12-inch and CD also feature the previously unreleased 'Down The Line'.

● Although they had previously recorded under a different name, the Allman Brothers Band first committed their blues-country fired southern rock to wax in 1969. To commemorate the band's 20th Anniversary Polydor release 'Dreams', available on six albums, four cassettes or four CDs. A hefty 55 tracks span their entire career, including not only the known material but over two hours of rare and previously unreleased items. Southern boogie ad infinitum!

● Good, country-rooted guitar bands seem vastly more abundant in Australia than Bushland right now. Behind every tree and every inch of attendant foliage way out in the Outback lurk hoards of axe-toting cobblers, guzzling tubes of Catlemaine XXXX and yelling: 'Hey, Bruce! I can see the honky-tonk.' A few have found success, many others deserve it; none moe so than Melbourne band Paul Kelly and the Messengers, who made a quantum jump in that direction three years ago when their debut album 'Gossip' went platinum in Australia. With the follow-up 'Under The Sun' the band's repute spread to the US, where, at Ocean Way Studios in Los Angeles, they made the new album — UK released — album 'So Much Water So Close To Home' (A&M AMA 5266). Produced by Paul Kelly and Scott Litt (R.E.M.'s 'Document' and 'Green'), they sound at times just slightly reminiscent of the lamentably defunct Long Ryders, particularly on the country-rockers 'Sweet Guy', 'You Can't Take It With You', 'Pigeon/Jundamurra' and 'I Had Forgotten You'. The dozen Kelly-penned originals also include gentler items like 'She's A Melody (Stupid Song)', 'Most Wanted Man In The World', 'South Of Germany', 'Everything's Turning To White', 'Cities Of Texas' and 'Moon In The Bed'. Exact lead and harmony vocals, spirited antipodean guitars, keyboards, bass and drums, West Coast studio/production know-how, plus guest appearances by Steve Berlin (sax), 'Juke' Logan (harmonica) and Lucky Oceans (pedal steel), all combine to make this trans-Pacific venture worthy of the shopping-list.

● R.E.M.'s latest single is 'Stand' (Warner Brothers W2833), reissued on the strength of their recent chart success with 'Orange Crush'. Originally the first single to be lifted from the 'Green' album, to my mind it has 'hit' written all over it and despite failure last time out, obviously WEA agree. Owners of the original will not be deterred from purchasing it again, with the repackaging and different, previously unreleased B-sides. The 7-inch features a great acoustic version of 'Pop ong '89' (close to the best thing they've ever done, and recorded and mixed in just four minutes), while the 12-inch and CD adds a ramshackle, completist only, live instrumental, 'Skin Tight'. Hell, I could listen to 'Pop Song '89' all day every day for the foreseeable future.

● Rodney Crowell has his worthiest outing in a long time with 'Diamonds and Dirt' (CBS). Although I wouldn't go so far as Jim Duncan who thinks it's Crowell's best album, it is his finest since that trilogy of classics cut between 1978-1981. The commercially cramping recent work is partially retained but acceptably offset by a return to that earlier distinctive semi-rockabilly, rootsy yet progressive style. Of the better tracks, 'After All This Time' and 'I Didn't Know I Could Lose You' have much faster and breezier than co-composer Guy Clark's version; and 'Crazy Baby' has a rockabilly cum swing feel. Getting back to those earlier sides, Warners come up with a good cross-section of tracks from the first three albums on 'The Rodney Crowell Collection'. If you don't own 'em, buy this immediately.

● The new single by Nanci Griffith, 'It's A Hard Life Wherever You Go' (MCA) — 7-inch, 12-inch, CD, culled from the upcoming 'Storms' album (see review elsewhere), is thematically and musically Irish inclined. Nanci's voice also affects traces of Irishism, which I'm unsure about from a Texas girl, but it does have a captivating beauty. Not exactly my first choice as a single, which probably means it'll be a hit.

● The Everly Brothers recently released a new album, 'Some Hearts' (Mercury 832 520-1), which it is said they self-produced and wrote most of the songs for because they wanted to keep the roots sound and country flavour of the music they grew up with. I disagree with most of that and, while the harmonies are obviously excellent, feel the backings are too mundanely modern and the songs unimpressive, a far cry from country roots or their pre-reunion material. The album is listenable, but with the inclusion of Albert Lee, Hank DeVito, Pete Wingfield, Larrie London and the Beach Boys (who sing backup on a version of 'Don't Worry Babe', also a single), it should have been better. Even Don and Phil's workout of John Hiatt's 'Any Single Solitary Heart' failed to impress me. Current reissues of earlier Everly material include 'Two Yanks In England' (Edsel ED 297), a British Beat Group style mix of originals and staples of the era, and 'Hidden Gems From The Warner Bros Years Volume 1' (Ace CH 272), fourteen of the duo's scarcer 60s cuts, mainly B-sides.

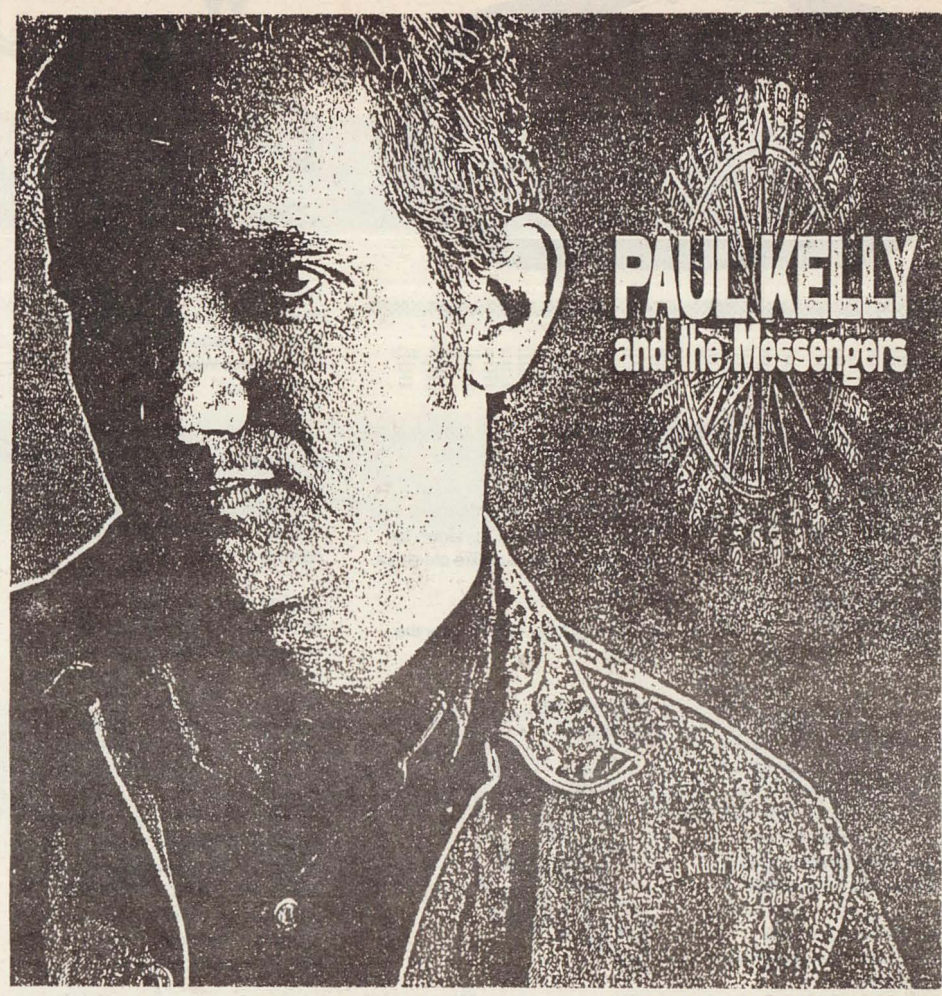
● 'Green On Red Live At The Town And Country Club' (China 841 013-0), recorded in the dying stages of that problem beset European tour when whatever could go wrong did, draws energy from the anger and frustration of Dan and Chuck must have been suffering and is quite simply brilliant. An attractively packaged, limited edition ten-incher, the front cover infos that the contents '... have received no overdubs or remixing and appear here exactly as performed on the night'. It goes on 'Welcome to Dan Stuart's worst nightmare ... And on the back: 'Poor Old Dan'. The music bites and claws, ripping at the senses, tearing away bloody layers of raw meat until it feeds on ur bone-marrow, Stuart and Prophet voracious as Coleman and Newman fight over the entrails. '16 Ways', 'Hair Of The Dog', 'Change', 'D.T. Blues', 'Fading Away', 'Morning Blue', 'Zombie For Love' are devoured with relish and sucked to the essence, a guts and gore spattered 'Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way?' the final long-gnawed remnant. Join in the blood-letting before it's too late, only 3,000 LPs and 2,000 tapes have been pressed.

● The good news: John Stewart returns for another UK tour in October, in company with Hugh Moffatt. The bad news: At the request of the man himself, it is billed as the 'John Stewart Farewell Tour'. The tour visits venues in Edinburgh, Perth, York, Manchester, Wellborough, Bristol, Birmingham and London; further details on these and Stewart's decision when known. My own regretful goodbye to John Stewart, and hopefully the first of many hellos to Hugh Moffatt, will be dispensed when Stampede Promotions put them on at Manchester's Band On The Wall on Tuesday, October 17th.

● Back in the early 60s, the Muscle Shoals area of Alabama was crawling with creative singers, writers, musicians and producers who, interacting with each other, forged a whole new, exciting blend of Southern music forms. One of the finest exponents of this cool, laid-back country-soul-blues hybrid was singer-songwriter Arthur Alexander, whose songs found favour through covers by the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Ry Cooder and numerous others. Arthur's own versions were the best, however, and a new 21-track CD features his most compelling work, including 'Anna', 'You're The Reason', 'Go Home Girl', 'You Better Move On' and 'Soldier Of Love'. Aptly titled 'The Greatest' (Ace CDCHD 922), it's a collection to be cherished. Ace also reissue, on vinyl only, the self-titled 'Arthur Alexander' (CH 270), a later Warner Brothers album dating from 1972, with the added inclusion of a rare single combining Billy Swan's 'Lover Please' with the original 'They'll Do It Every Time'. Alexander's writing talent and that of Donnie Fritts, Dennis Linde, Steve Cropper and Dan Penn results in excellent songs, equalled by the production of Tommy Coghill and fine picking from an unnamed band. He might be rather obscure now but Arthur Alexander was, indeed, one of The Greatest.

● The superb Rosie Flores and her band arrive in the UK this month. Their tour commences on September 24th and lasts through to October 1st. Check local press for details. A visit by Gary P. Nunn and the Sons Of The Bunkhouse is scheduled for the whole of March 1990.

● New and upcoming releases: Gary Hall and the Stormkeepers — Garage Geart (Run River RRA 010); Jimmie Dale Gilmore — Jimmie Dale Gilmore (Demon FIEND 145); Naked Prey — Kill The Messenger (Fundamental SAVE 73); The Plimsouls — One Night In America (Fan Club FC 048); Holly Dunn — The Blue Rose Of Texas (Warner Bros 925 939-1); Del Amitri — Waking Hours A&M AMA 9006); Marshall Crenshaw — Good Evening (Warner Bros 925 908-1); Joe Sun — Hank Bogart Still Lives (Dixie Frog 8418); Rob Herten — Bucky's Heartaches (Texsun Tex 66); Ramblin' Jack Elliott — The Best Of (Big Beat WIK 86); The Wilderness Family — Crossing Lake Riley (Macondo 14); Link Wray — Rumble Man (Ace CH 266); Tav Falco And Panther Burns — Midnight In Memphis (New Rose ROSE 185/CD/cass); Friday Night In America — New Grass Revival (Capitol 90739); Creedence Clearwater Revival — Pendulum (Fantasy FACE 512); Creedence Clearwater Revival — Mardi Gras Fantasy FACE 513).



Compiled by Gallup for the Country Music Association © 1989

Four Acts Dominate CMA Chart

... with 12 out of top 20 albums

● With a record breaking five albums for Nanci Griffith, positioned 8, 10, 15, 17 and 19, including two new entries, 'Once In A Very Blue Moon' and 'Poet In My Window' all on the MCA label; three for Daniel O'Donnell; two each for Lyle Lovett and Randy Travis.

Week ending August 19th, 1989

1	3	COPPERHEAD ROAD	MCA MCF3426 (F)
		Steve Earle	C.MCFC3426/CD:DMCF3426
2	14	LYLE LOVETT & HIS LARGE BAND	MCA MCG6037 (F)
		Lyle Lovett	C.MCG6037/CD:DMCG6037
3	1	WHITE LIMOZEEN	CBS 4651351 (C)
		Dolly Parton	C:4651354/CD:4651352
4	5	I NEED YOU	Ritz RITZLP0038 (SP)
		Daniel O'Donnell	C.RITZLC0038/CD:RITZCD104
5	4	FROM THE HEART	Telstar STAR2327 (BMG)
		Daniel O'Donnell	C:STAR2327/CD:TCV2327
6	2	RIVER OF TIME	RCA/Curb ZL74127 (BMG)
		Judds	C:ZK74127/CD:ZD74127
7	6	DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER	Ritz RITZLP0043 (SP)
		Daniel O'Donnell	C.RITZLC0043/CD:RITZCD105
8	7	ONE FAIR SUMMER EVENING	MCA MCF3435 (F)
		Nanci Griffith	C.MCFC3435/CD:DMCF3435
9	9	ABSOLUTE TORCH AND TWANG	Sire WX259 (W)
		k d long & The Reclines	C:WX259C/CD:WX259CD
10	NEW	ONCE IN A VERY BLUE MOON	MCA MCG6054 (F)
		Nanci Griffith	C.MCG6054/CD:DMCG6054
11	NEW	KENTUCKY THUNDER	CBS 4651441 (C)
		Ricky Skaggs	C:4651444/CD:4651442
12	18	SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG	Reprise 9257921 (W)
		Kenny Rogers	C:9257924/CD:9257922
13	8	OLD 8 X 10	Warner Bros WX162 (W)
		Randy Travis	C:WX162C/CD:K9254662
14	11	BLUEBIRD	Warner Bros 957761 (W)
		Emmylou Harris	C:9257764/CD:9257762
15	12	LONE STAR STATE OF MIND	MCA MCF3364 (F)
		Nanci Griffith	C.MCFC3364/CD:MCAD5927
16	10	WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN 2	MCA MCFD9001 (F)
		Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	C.MCFDC9001/CD:DMFD9001
17	NEW	POET IN MY WINDOW	MCA MCG6053 (F)
		Nanci Griffith	C.MCG6053/CD:DMCG6053
18	RE	PONTIAC	MCA MCF3389 (F)
		Lyle Lovett	C.MCFC3389/CD:DMCF3389
19	16	LITTLE LOVE AFFAIRS	MCA MCF3413 (F)
		Nanci Griffith	C.MCFC3413/CD:DMCF3413
20	13	ALWAYS AND FOREVER	Warner Brothers WX107 (W)
		Randy Travis	C:WX107C/CD:WX107CD

Country Music ROUND UP

Britain's Best Selling Country Publication (Established 1976)

The views of the contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher, directors or editors.

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Country Music
ROUND UP

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Kentucky-born Ricky holds strong musical ties to the music of his native state — bluegrass, along with even stronger bonds to his family and friends

Family and Friends

'FAMILY AND FRIENDS' is, of course, the title of Ricky's 1982 Rounder album, and fittingly sums up the man in general. Just out at the time of writing is his latest album, 'Kentucky Thunder' on Epic, which has already spawned the number one country single 'Lovin' Only Me' (E. Stevens-H. Kanter), his first chart topper since mid-'86 when 'Cajun Moon' did the honours.

● After quite a lean spell by his standards are we to see a repeat of those highly successful days, the period I have in mind is '82-'85. It was a time when he was picking up awards, gold discs and number one singles consistently. 1982 saw him pick up the coveted CMA 'Male Vocalist Of The Year' award, which I personally think should have been handed to him again before now.

● Yet the Ricky Skaggs Band featuring Bruce Boulton (steel guitar/dobro), Jesse Chambers (bass guitar), George Grantham (drums), Bobby Hicks (fiddle/banjo), Lou Ried (guitar/fiddle/banjo), Gary Smith (piano) and Britain's own Ray Flacke (electric guitar) were to be credited with CMA's 'Band Of The Year' award in '83 and '84, followed in '85 with Ricky gaining the much coveted 'Entertainer Of The Year' award.

● Ricky's influences in music have been many, from those very early years of singing and playing for his parents in the mountain community of Cordell in Lawrence County, Kentucky. It was his folks Hobert and Dorothy who made the largest impact on him, hence his love for those lovely harmonies (which he does so well) and gospel music, along with a glowing pride of his heritage. Some of those songs which Hobert and Dorothy used to sing in the local church back then can be found on the already mentioned album, 'Family and Friends'.

● Among the friends appearing on the recording are Bobby Hicks, The Whites, Jerry Douglas and Peter Rowan, all of whom have to varying degrees, established a close relationship with Skaggs. None more so than the Whites, which includes his wife Sharon, who he married in April '84. The partnership extends beyond the family home, they've appeared on stage together as part of the Whites. Between working for Emmylou Harris ('77-'79) and setting out on a solo career he spent a year touring with the family, yet didn't get to record a duet with Sharon until 'Love Can't Ever Get Better Than This', which was taken from the album 'Love's Gonna Get Ya'.

● It proved a most worthwhile venture, both making the top 12 in the country singles charts in '87 and also gaining them the CMA 'Duo Of The Year' award. Since then they've followed up with equally fine 'Home Is Wherever You Are' from his 'Comin' Home To Stay' 1988 Epic release. It would delight many to hear an album of the sweet harmonies of this husband and wife duo, if you need any convincing just take a listen to their absolutely stunning version of Townes Van Zandt's 'If I Needed You' featured on the Seldom Scene's '15th Anniversary Celebration' double 'live' album, with only Ricky's guitar accompanying their perfect harmonies. This is just another occasion where Ricky is involved recording with friends, he teams up with old friend Linda Ronstadt on 'Drifting Too Far From The Shore', along with one time lead vocalist of Seldom Scene John Starling.

● There's no doubt about it, Ricky is at his very best on occasions such as these, his enthusiasm for the traditional side of the music shines like a beacon, and as a result lifts the standard of others.

● Keeping with the family side of things, Ricky has also produced the last five albums from the Whites, plus the Sugar Hill effort entitled Buck White 'More Pretty Girls Than One', where he also supplies guitar and fiddle. While on the subject of producing albums he has just seen the finished product of his latest work come on to the market, the much talked about Dolly Parton 'White Limozeen' release, which sees the lady airing some composition which contain some of that down-home country music which she used to be associated with. Ricky sings harmony on 'The Moon, The Stars And Me', 'Take Me Back To The Country' and the lively 'Why'd You Come In Here Lookin' Like That', it isn't the first time which they've sang together by any means. You need to look no further than Ricky's highly successful 'Don't Cheat In Our Home Town' '83 release, where they

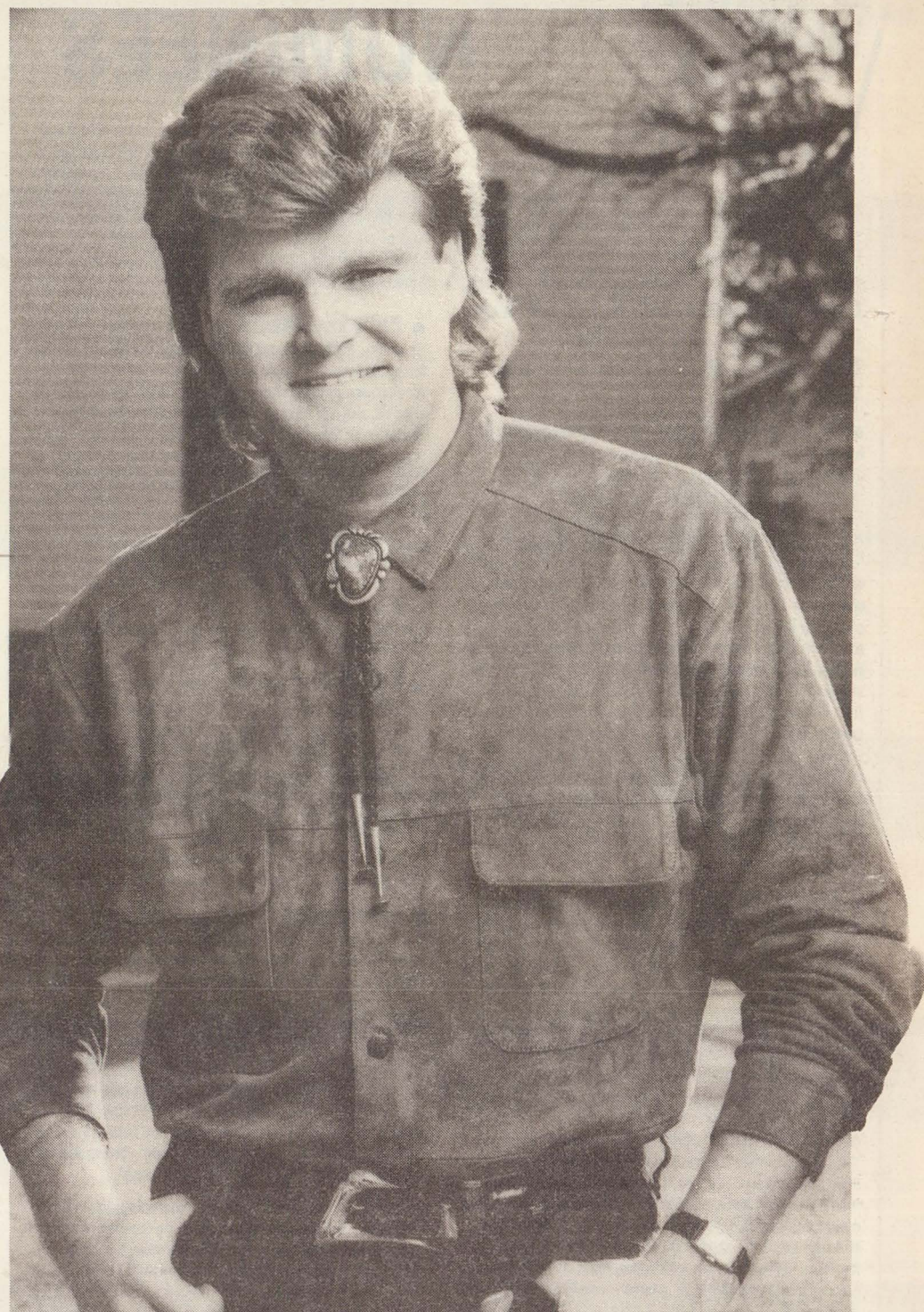
joined forces on 'Don't Step Over An Old Love' and 'A Vision Of Moher'. During the following year Ricky scored with three top-selling singles taken from the album, 'Honey (Open That Door)', 'Don't Cheat In Our Home Town' and Bill Monroe's 'Uncle Pen' which gained the distinction of being the first bluegrass tune to top the charts.

■ Keith Whitley was a great friend of Ricky's, they went back a long way to the days when they were still at school, playing the bluegrass circuit at weekends. At the tender age of 15, Skaggs and Whitley recorded an album for Rebel, before their link up with Ralph Stanley and The Clinch Mountain Boys in '71, Ricky played mandolin while Keith joined as a guitarist. This proved great experience for both the starlets, especially Ricky who also joined in on the harmonies, something which comes so naturally to him. It's such a pity that the two friends hadn't returned to the recording studios in recent years. Of the late Keith Whitley, Ricky is quoted as saying, 'He was like a brother to me — I loved him dearly.'

■ Tony Rice also cut an album with Ricky before he set out on his solo career, their Sugar Hill acoustic old time effort 'Skaggs and Rice' with only Ricky's mandolin and Tony's guitar accompanying them. Ricky's tenor harmonies blending superbly with Tony's splendid lead vocals, where their genuine love for the traditional bluegrass and old time compositions is a governing factor. Ricky, previous to this 1980 recording, had appeared on vinyl with Tony, one such occasion was on David Grisman's 'The David Grisman Rounder Album' (1977), where they duet and make up a trio on 'Hold To God's Unchanging Hand', it was in fact Grisman's mandolin which Ricky features on Grisman's excellent current bluegrass extravaganza, also on Rounder 'Home Is Where The Heart Is, and sees the trio

combining on 'Sophronie', which also boasts the driving banjo of another musician Ricky has a long association with, J. D. Crowe, which goes back to the days of The New South. Staying with D.G.'s album the partnership of Ricky and Doc Watson even surpassed my wildest dreams, their handling of 'Feast Here Tonight' ranks as one of the album's highlights.

● J. D. Crowe, Jerry Douglas, Tony Rice, Bobby Stone and Ricky made up the band which was known as J. D. Crowe and The New South, who recorded the Rounder self-titled piece, a blend of traditional, country and bluegrass. This 1975 recording includes some outstanding tracks, 'Summer Wages' (Ian Tyson), 'Ten Degrees' (Gordon Lightfoot) and 'Home Sweet Home' (R. Crowell) representing the more recent songwriters featured. Although Tony Rice has shared the recording studio on a good few occasions, another member of the group, good friend Jerry Douglas has often joined Ricky both in the studio and on stage with the Whites. Their contributions to the Whites in particular are family and friends affairs, as mentioned already Ricky also produces their material. Some of Ricky's and Jerry's most accomplished work together has been their contributions with Peter Rowan (who at one time often used to perform at small venues when time allowed with Jerry and fiddle player Mark O'Connor), best heard on Rowan's Sugar Hill album, 'The Walls Of Time'. Jerry's dobro, Ricky's mandolin, guitars, fiddle and fine tenor vocals combining most impressively with Rowan's unique lead vocals, this is still regarded by many as Peter's best ever recording, which says a great deal for



Ricky Skaggs

Jerry and Ricky. Jerry and Ricky also enjoyed good reviews for their part in the bluegrass group Boone Creek, in '79 along with lead vocalist Wes Golding, Terry Baucom (banjo), Steve Bryant (bass) they came up with 'One Way Track', the band's second album. Which like its predecessor was very well received and introduced many to bluegrass music.

● Prior to this hectic spell of recording Ricky had been playing with Emmylou Harris and also introduced her to the traditional side of country music, which resulted in the marvellous 'Roses In The Snow' album. This is as close as you'll ever get to having an album which features two acts who work so closely throughout yet don't qualify for the status of a duet recording. Ricky plays fiddle, banjo, acoustic guitar and mandolin, as well as providing tenor harmony on some tracks (on two occasions, 'I'll Go Stepping Too' and 'Jordan' with Tony Rice), plus his duets with Linda Ronstadt 'Gold Watch And Chain' and with Emmylou 'You're Learning' and 'Green Pastures', along with his fine lead on 'Darkest Hour Is Just Before Dawn', Jerry Douglas too appears on two tracks.

● Ricky's 'Sweet Temptation' Sugar Hill album (1979) really set him off on the right footing, the friends are there in numbers supporting him on this traditional bluegrass-country affair. With Ricky showing his heritage by selecting music of Carter Stanley, Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and the Carter Family. Emmylou's vocals can be heard on 'I'll Take The Blame' and 'Could You Love Me One More Time' in earnest, while the White girls, Sharon and Cheryl give inspired supporting

harmonies. Throughout the album Jerry Douglas provides some inspired dobro playing, while good friend Tony Rice sings his heart out, with it demonstrated none better than on 'Baby Girl' on an album which still rates as one of the best. The liner notes come from his former boss Emmylou Harris, with words of appreciation of both his great talent and their close friendship, which is seconded by ever so many.

● Ricky's work is also to be heard on Earl Scruggs' 'Top Of The World' (1983) release, where he's the featured guest on 'We'll Meet Again Sweetheart' and 'Til The End Of The World Rolls Round', Jerry Douglas supplies dobro on the album. Ray Charles also utilizes his vocals on the fittingly entitled 'Friendship', from the 1984 album of the same title.

● Coming right up to date we have Ricky's involvement with the star-studded 'Will The Circle Be Unbroken Vol. 2' from The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. On this excellent double album he sings a 'gem' of a version of 'Little Mountain Church House', where he's given the support of the band, Mark O'Connor, Buck White, Roy Huskey Jr, Randy Scruggs and dobro wizard Jerry Douglas, old timey music at it's very best, a delight for all country music followers. The much recorded title track sees Ricky singing the third verse. Here concludes this story (for the moment) of the close link between Ricky, friends and family, wouldn't it be some album if he had some of these friends joining him on HIS own album, with Skaggs the central figure.

Maurice Hope



CMA HORIZON NOMINEES

Finalists for the 1989 Horizon Award have been announced by the Country Music Association. The ten nominees are: **Clint Black, Suzy Bogguss, Desert Rose Band, Skip Ewing, k.d. lang, Patty Loveless, The McCarters, Shenandoah, Jo-Ei Sonnier and Keith Whitley.**

● The Horizon Award is given to the individual or group who has demonstrated the most significant creative growth and development in overall chart and sales activity, live performance professionalism and critical media recognition. The ten nominees will be narrowed to five finalists during voting by the CMA membership.

● **Clint Black:** This Houston native burst upon the scene with a relaxed, confident style and years of experience on the nightclub circuit. An iron worker and fishing guide before he began performing for a living, Black quickly caught the eye of the Nashville music business community with his singing/songwriting talents. The result is his debut album on RCA Records, *Killin' Time*. Mixing several country styles including western swing, heartbreaking ballads and cajun waltzes, the album produced the hit single, 'A Better Man', which went to number one on both the Radio and Records and Billboard country charts. He was the first solo act to have a debut number one in R&R's history and the first in 14 years in Billboard's. His new single 'Killin' Time' is currently on the charts.

● **Suzy Bogguss:** Country fame has kept Capitol recording artist Suzy Bogguss hop-scotching the globe. She made several European performances this summer, and her USO tour with Ricky Skaggs to the Philippines will air on TNN in September. She'll also be featured in a BBC television special on September 9th. Stereo Review and People magazines have praised her album 'Somewhere Between', and her single 'Cross My Broken Heart' has made the charts. In April she was named Top New Female Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music.

● **Desert Rose Band:** With hits like 'Ashes Of Love', 'One Step Forward', 'Love Reunited' and 'He's Back And I'm Blue', the Desert Rose Band has cut its own path in country music—a path that has taken the members through acoustic music, bluegrass, folk and rock. Desert Rose leader Chris Hillman was a member of the Byrds and the Flying Burrito Brothers. Herb Pedersen, John Jorgenson, Jay Dee Maness, Steve Duncan and Bill Bryson have worked with such artists as John Prine, Rod Stewart, Arlo Guthrie, Dan Fogelberg and Linda Ronstadt just name a few. The MCA/Curb act's latest album 'Running' yielded the number one single, 'I Still Believe In You'. 'Summer Wind' went to number two in Billboard and 'She Don't Love Nobody' reached number three. Their current single, 'Hello Trouble' is currently in the charts.

● **Skip Ewing:** Skip Ewing's attraction to country music started at the ripe old age of 4 when he asked his father for a guitar, and he's been going strong ever since. Introduced to the Nashville music scene while working at Opryland USA as a singer, Skip soon began singing on demo sessions and jingles while he developed his own songwriting skills. His talents eventually led to a recording contract with MCA and his first album 'The Coast Of Colorado'. His first single 'Your Memory Wins Again' reached the top 20, and he followed it with such top 10 tunes as 'I Don't Have Far To Fall', 'Burnin' A Hole In My Heart' and 'The Gospel According To Luke'. His current single 'The Coast Of Colorado' is climbing its way up the charts.

● **k.d. lang:** This Canadian who began singing at bake sales as a child is blowing a fresh new breeze through the field of country with her off-beat appearance and powerful voice. Born and raised in the farming community of Consort, Alberta, the Warner Bros./Sire artist began playing guitar and writing original material at an early age. After college

she focussed her energies solely on her music and assembled a band, the Reclines. Success in Canada led to her debut album, 'A Truly Western Experience'. Lang's first US album 'Angel With A Lariat' soon followed. It caught the attention of producer Owen Bradley and the two teamed up for her second album, 'Shadowland'. Her latest effort 'Absolute Torch And Twang', includes her current single 'Full Moon Full Of Love'.

● **Patty Loveless:** Raised in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, Patty Loveless has had a love for country music from the time she began singing with her older brother in local country music shows and jamborees. By the time she was 14, she had written 30 songs. Hired by The Wilburn Brothers as their 'girl singer', Patty spent her summers in Nashville and on the road, hoping to become a country recording star. After marrying and leaving the business for awhile, she returned to Nashville in hopes of fulfilling her dream. What followed was her first album on MCA Records, 'Patty Loveless'. It yielded two top 40 hits, 'After All' and 'Lonely Days, Lonely Nights'. Her second album 'If My Heart Had Windows' produced the ever popular title track as well as 'A Little Bit In Love', among others. Her current single 'Timber I'm Falling In Love' is off her newest album 'Honky Tonk Angel'.

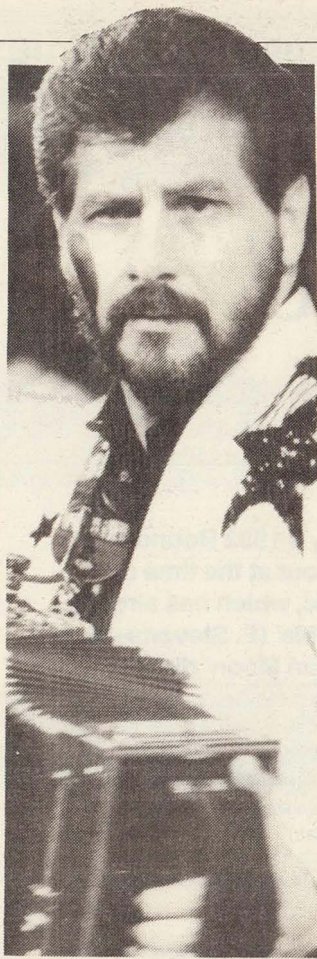
● **The McCarters:** During the 1987 International Country Music Fan Fair, Jennifer McCarter swept stage floors while her younger sisters Lisa and Teresa collected tickets at Opryland USA's front gates. Now the Sevierville, Tennessee natives are in front of the crowds. Their Warner Bros. debut album 'The Gift' featured the hit singles 'Timeless And True Love' which went to number five on the charts and 'The Gift' which peaked at number four. They're currently finishing a new album but have already released the first single 'Up And Gone' which gained a top 10 position.

● **Shenandoah:** Once known as the MGM Band because they performed regularly at the MGM Club in their hometown of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Shenandoah has certainly proved they're worthy of being out in front. The five-man band, consisting of Ralph Ezell, Mike McGuire, Marty Raybon, Jim Seales and Stan Thorn, mixes r&b and other musical influences to come up with their own special brand of country. Their first CBS album, 'Shenandoah', produced songs like 'They Don't Make Love Like We Used To', 'She Doesn't Cry Anymore' and 'It Ain't Love Till It Hurts'. Their newest album 'The Road Not Taken', features the hits 'The Church On Cumberland Road', 'Mama Knows' and their current single 'Sunday In The South'.

● **Jo-Ei Sonnier:** The son of sharecroppers in South Louisiana, Jo-Ei Sonnier started playing the accordion when he was four. Now almost four decades later, his distinctive voice and musicianship have earned this RCA Records artist kudos from audiences and the media including the Los Angeles Times and Pulse magazine. His debut album 'Come On Joe' peaked on Billboard at number 22, but has yielded such hits as the title cut 'Tear Stained Letter', 'No More One More Time' and 'Rainin' In My Heart'. In 1988 he received Performance magazine's 1988 Readers Poll Award for New Country Act of the Year and People magazine chose his album as one of the top 10 LPs of 1988.

● **Keith Whitley:** In 1984 Keith Whitley signed to RCA Records. A year later he released 'A Hard Act To Follow', then followed that with 'LA To Miami', which included the hits 'Miami, My Amy', 'Homecoming '63', 'Ten Feet Away' and 'Hard Livin''. But it was his 'Don't Close Your Eyes' album that achieved the most success, earning him three number ones with the title cut, 'When You Say Nothing At All' and 'I'm No Stranger To The Rain'. 'Don't Close Your Eyes' was also named the 1988 Single of the Year by both Billboard and Radio and Records. Tragically, Keith died May 9th, at the age of 33. He had finished an album 'I Wonder Do You Think Of Me' before his death. The title cut is the first single release and has moved quickly up the charts.

● Nominations for the Horizon Award are made by CMA's Board of Directors and then submitted to the CMA membership in the second round of voting. The Horizon Award winner will be announced October 9th on the 23rd Annual Country Music Association Awards Show, televised live on CBS from the Grand Ole Opry House.



Jo-Ei Sonnier

Friday Night In America

● 'Friday Night In America' is the brand new album from country quartet New Grass Revival.

● While not compromising on their distinctive style of strong vocals combined with incredible finger pickin' skills this new album has a more commercial and accessible flavour than the group's enthusiastically received 'Hold To A Dream' album released last year.

● Notable tracks include the folk based 'Big Foot', the melodic 'You Plant Your Fields' and 'Angel Eyes', and a wild version of the Lennon/McCartney classic 'I'm Down'. This is guitar, mandolin, bass, fiddle and banjo at its best.

● The album is available on EMI Records in LP, cassette and CD formats (cd is a mid-price release).

Back On The Road

● Revamped, renewed and revitalised Jon Derek and Country Fever claim they're ready, willing and able to play concerts, dances, theatres, festivals, etc. anywhere, any time with their new line up featuring:

● **DAVE PYCROFT**, bass guitar, vocals. — Although only 21, 'lofty' has fitted a wealth of experience into the five years since he joined Warren Reeves, touring extensively throughout the UK and Europe. Already a strong harmony singer, he has blossomed into a fine lead vocalist.

● **TONY PECK**, drums (lunacy). — Tends to camouflage his solid drumming skills behind a curtain of eccentricity, but don't be fooled, he really can play. Ask anyone who has witnessed his dynamic drum solos. Tony is also known as 'Mr Fixit' with his ability to procure anything from tin tacks to Russian tanks at the drop of a hat (or a shiny coin).

● **DAVE ANDERSON**, lead guitar, pedal steel, vocals. — Ex George Moody, Vegas, Campbell's Country. With his long pedigree in country music, having worked with many top stars, Dave, who sent us this report, is delighted to team up with Jon after many years friendship. Dave is an avid collector of country music and delights in catching the others out in music quizzes. He also nurtures a keen interest in accents and dialects. Dave's latest acquisition is the new G & L Asat guitar, part of a sponsorship deal with Kettering based shop 'Make Music'.

● **JON DEREK**, lead vocal, rhythm guitar. — Known as the 'Peter Pan' of British country, Jon seems to have been around for ever, and has in fact clocked up over 20 years as a professional singer. His standards remain amazingly high, and small wonder. Previous members of Country Fever include such luminaries as Adrian Legge, Roger dean, Graham Walker, Gerry Hogan and the legendary Albert Lee.

BBC Essex 'All Kinds of Country'

● BBC Radio Essex continue their successful series of live country music concerts with a show at The Mercury Theatre in Colchester next month featuring Two Hearts, Manson Grant and the Dynamos and Slim Pickins. The concert will be compered by BBC Essex country presenter Vic Woodhouse who's programme 'All Kinds Of Country' can be heard every Wednesday evening 7 to 8 pm and Sunday lunchtime 12 noon to 1.30 pm by tuning to 95.3 FM or 1530 kHz medium wave.

'Wembley' Associates

● Mervyn Conn and David Griffiths of David Griffiths Associates, a former Chief Executive of Wembley Stadium, have formed a company called Lime Leisure Group.

● Mervyn Conn is the appointed chairman of the company, but as managing director David Griffiths proposes to expand its international touring department and become involved in a new Arena and Leisure Complex in 1990. . . . Could this mean a move away from Wembley?

A spokesman for Lime Leisure declined to comment but confirmed that Mr. Conn's role was not expected to be a high profile one, 'more an advisory position'.

Contact David Griffiths on 01-495 7502.

The Elements Of Jason And The Scorchers

● Nashville rockers Jason And The Scorchers made their A&M LP debut last month with 'Thunder And Fire'. Produced by Barry Beckett, the album features eleven new songs including the forthcoming single 'Now That You're Mine'.

● The LP sees Jason (vocals) and Warner Hodges (guitar) sharing songwriting duties with such luminaries as Steve Earle, Don Schlitz and Paul Kennerley.

● Formed in 1981, out of a then burgeoning Nashville underground rock scene, Jason And The Scorchers went on to release two acclaimed albums on EMI, 'Lost And Found' (1985) and 'Still Standing' (1986).

● The band, completed by guitarist Andy York, bassist Ken Fox and drummer Perry Baggz, are poised to announce an extensive UK tour this autumn.

Mary Duff Tour

● Ireland's new Queen of Country, Ritz recording artist Mary Duff and her band undertakes her first club tour for Vic Woodhouse Promotions in October. Ten dates and venues have already been confirmed.

Country Music ROUND UP

● A 'Music Week' dealer survey issued last month shows that 79 per cent of all record retailers stock country music and of these 77 per cent indicated that their sales of country music had either held steady or increased over the last 12 months. This confirms the findings of a Gallup Survey commissioned by the CMA whose results were announced last November.

Wordsearch

SEPTEMBER 1989

Vol. XIII No. X

Compiled by Tony Anderson

YOU need to 'compose' yourself for this month's problem because hidden in the grid are the song titles you require to 'arrange' against the undermentioned composers or teams of composers. Then to keep the 'melody' going say who recorded them, and remember it's up, down or across, or diagonally either way to come up with your for'tune'ate answers.

The tunesmiths are as follows, so find the songs and name the artists:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Bob McDill | 21 C. Wheeler | 41 Hank Cochran |
| 2 Bob Hilliard-Carl Sigman | 22 D. Dillon-F. Dycus | 42 Dan Penn-Leroy Daniels |
| 3 Lawton Williams | 23 L. Alderton-R. Fagan-P. Ryan | 43 Glenn Sutton-Billy Sherrill |
| 4 Jack Clement | 24 C. Bickhardt-M. Bonagura | 44 Gram Parsons |
| 5 Harlan Howard | 25 B. Hill-T. Hiller | 45 Don Henley-Glenn Frey |
| 6 Lionel Richie Jnr. | 26 Jimbeau Hinson-Harry Stinson | 46 Bowling-Byman |
| 7 Jimmy Webb | 27 T. Cotton-R. Smith-A. Lee | 47 Erroll Garner-Johnny Burke |
| 8 Gene MacLellan | 28 W. Walker-Ray Wix | 48 Bob Ferguson |
| 9 Kerry Chater-Austin Roberts | 29 Robert Byrne-Will Robinson | 49 K. Chater-D. Mayo |
| 10 Tiompkin-Washington | 30 Daniel D. Darst-Robert Altman | 50 D. Pfrimmer-B. Gallimore |
| 11 Braddock-Putman | 31 Dallas Frazier | 51 F. Young-B. Deaton |
| 12 Harvey-Collins | 32 Joe South | 52 R. Giles-S. Bogard |
| 13 Robertson-Blair | 33 Marge Crumbaker-Pat Wilson | 53 L. Wilson-C. Kelly |
| 14 Jerry Hubbard | 34 Tony Romeo | 54 T. Menzies-T. Hazelden |
| 15 W. Theuissen | 35 Tillis-Dill | 55 Dennis Linde |
| 16 D. Rollins | 36 D. McCall-L. Morris | 56 Bruce Channel-Don Cook |
| 17 Rogers-Wheeler | 37 Cindy Walker | 57 Paul Overstreet-Al Gore |
| 18 B. Wood-R. Murphy | 38 Jack Clement | 58 Hugh Prestwood |
| 19 B. Braddock | 39 Alex Zanetis | 59 Roger Brown |
| 20 Geiger-Mullis-Rector | 40 Marijohn Wilkin-John D. Loudermilk | 60 Bill Anderson |

July Wordsearch Winner:

T. Rudd, Cranmere Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics.

Post your entries to reach this office not later than September 29th, 1989

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SLOWLY AGENTDLLAFRAULEI NCN
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BSEL RRAMGTVTI NUUESHLOCPMA
YHTLYRSDSEWAYTYXBVETBYBNDT
REAZLCGCNDYEHACFHSOGOODOL
TEWII IJAAAKEWSLI SIELAOMOE
NPNSNOCPTDMESREHTVGRTRBGD
UWI NEMEUPDHAUXASAYUHVYDWZ
OGNI RAGBLTIECN YCOMEONJ OEE
CEDJETEOFFKCDGSRERHLI ODIN
ACDMLSHLNNSSSTROTCINPUAORO
NRNDVTA AWELVEE ANWUSEXBONG
AOURI HRYTIGLZCDLODOOVEDOS
CVOIRGDFOSLI ASYGMSHYNELWY
I I WBAITIMI TDRREA JAKKLLLB
RDNWSNI NMHRHELESSOMCPI IEA
ESUOHY MADAMLARETODGAFTMB
MENNOFEARTHDETDFHMI OKJSEY
ALVSWMSI JEYPADRASASTTNUYM
I LOVEXVUOYDAHI FIYI WOAYOAU
MYMUMLYT SOI PPISSI SSIMHYWC
AFLYINGSOUTHNOTSAVLAGA WSS

JULY ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Webb Pierce | 12 Joe Sun | 23 Bill Boyd | 34 Jean Shepard |
| 2 Lore | 13 Bob Willis | 24 Mel Tillis | 35 Hank Thompson |
| 3 Ray Price | 14 Ralph Stanley | 25 Bobby Bare | 36 Rodney Crowell |
| 4 Arthur Smith | 15 Pete Rowan | 26 Bill Clifton | 37 Bill Emerson |
| 5 Moe Bandy | 16 Hylo Brown | 27 J. D. Crowe | 38 Dave Dudley |
| 6 David Houston | 17 Grady Martin | 28 Del McCoury | 39 Merle Haggard |
| 7 Danny Davis | 18 Charlie Monroe | 29 Louise Massey | 40 J. D. Jarvis |
| 8 Barbara Mandrell | 19 Sonny Osborne | 30 Tom T. Hall | 41 Hank Williams Jnr. |
| 9 Willie Nelson | 20 Ferlin Husky | 31 Jim Eanes | 42 Bill Anderson |
| 10 Roy Acuff | 21 Don Reno | 32 Rual Yarbrough | 43 Jimmy Martin |
| 11 Del Reeves | 22 Bob Ensign | 33 Ernest Tubbs | 44 Leon McAuliffe |



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SATURDAY SUNDAY

- ★ Luxury Bungalows
- ★ Licensed Bars
- ★ The Garden Restaurant
- ★ Legends Snack Bar
- ★ Cabaret
- ★ Games Room
- ★ Supermarket

**FIRE
& WATER**
(Friday)



Steve Scott & Rio
(Saturday)

**CHRIS CODY
and FIRST BASE**
(Friday & Saturday)

**DREW TAYLOR &
SOUTHERN BREW**
(Saturday & Sunday)

**MIDDLE AGED
SPREAD DUO**
(Friday Saturday & Sunday)



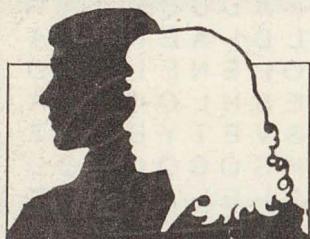
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Country Music ROUND UP



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A great deal of care is expended by this newspaper to ensure that this is the case."

Western Dance News

By JUNE WILSON

C. W. Parker, founder of the National Association of Country Western Dance Teachers (NTA) has moved to Nashville and is now producing a new western dance magazine called KICKER.

● The magazine will be sent monthly to those western dancers subscribing to the KIC (Keep It Country) organization founded by CW to promote traditional style western dance. I would be pleased to forward on to CW any enquiries sent to me.

● Gralyn Promotions have produced a video of the Fresno Championships last year, cost of this video is £24.50.

● Two weeks of western dancing and country music can, of course, be found by the seashore this month at Pontins, Hemsby. Western dance instruction during the first week of this major holiday country music festival will be undertaken by Brian and Sylvia Goldsmith of Kent. I recently saw this well known couple who run the Western Toe Tappers Club and was very interested to hear of their exciting trip to Orlando, Florida — according to Brian their schedule was so hectic that their (dancing) feet hardly touched the ground!

● Friends of Dick Matteis and Geneva Owsley will be pleased to know that they will be at Pontins, Brean Sands, in early October, during this week they will be conducting advanced classes and their instructor's course; they will also be at the second UK Championship weekend to be held at Barton Hall at the beginning of November. Many thanks to them both for sending through information on the proposed activities. I understand that two other western dance instruction teams from the US will be on hand and am very much looking forward to attending this event. I was unable to attend last year, but received glowing reports from those that did.

● I was recently invited by John and Janette Sandham to attend the special evening at the RNA CMC at Widnes featuring Pinto Bennett. I was very impressed by this extremely friendly club, there is a good atmosphere, all styles of dress, indicative of a certain large holiday country music festival attended by a large number of those present! Pinto and his lads provided a super night's entertainment, it was a very warm evening but nevertheless there was plenty of dancing going on. A smaller dance area than usual (allowing for the additional numbers attending this evening), I observed the main dance style to be line, although I was given to understand that normally a larger dance area allows for more couple dancing around the outside of the floor. Even though it was so warm I couldn't resist a jitterbug to the last song of the night from Pinto and the lads — 'Staggerlee'. This is the band's second UK tour this year, and the RNA club organisers informed me that Pinto and the lads enjoyed themselves so much that they had asked to go back there!

● If you are a western dancer looking for dance material, don't forget to contact The Song and Dance Store, Alexandra Road, Clevedon, Avon. The store is run by Malcolm Owen who is a professional square dance caller and western dance instructor, I am sure he and his wife Viv would be pleased to hear from you.

● Any new venture relies on support in order to continue. If I can receive details from western dancers as to news of what is going on in their areas, this column will be able to keep dancers everywhere in the picture as to happenings in the UK — where to go and dance, where line dancing is banned, without your input all I can report on each month is the clubs I am actually able to attend myself. At the moment I am receiving more information from the US than the UK.

● All news to June Wilson, 94 Magpie Road, Norwich, NR3 1JG, Norfolk.

...newsline...

● Could Carl Perkins become a Travelling Wilbury?

Rumour has it that Carl Perkins, in London recently for a series of live shows, could take over from the late Roy Orbison.



Margaret Trotter Retires

By IAN WHITE LAW

● The Border CMC first saw the light of day ten years ago in the Town Hall at Eyemouth with Margaret Trotter as its secretary. The club moved venues very quickly to the Kings Arms Hotel at Berwick, before taking up its present residence in The Black and Gold Club in Tweedmouth where it still meets on the second Tuesday every month.

● Now because of health problems Margaret's been forced into taking a decision not of her own choosing, and much as she's regretting it, face up to retirement.

● The club, its members and visiting artists are going to miss her presence sorely. She will prove very difficult if not impossible to replace. We can only all hope that there is someone who feels capable of filling the gap left by this doyenne of country music up in the Borders, because if this venue fails the British country music scene will have lost something very special.

● Margaret's retirement actually coincided with her club's tenth anniversary, and as is customary the choice of artists for the Birthday show was given to the members; that they should choose Bob McKinlay Band, and Iona and Andy shows the standard they have enjoyed in the past under Margaret's jurisdiction.

● The Bob McKinlay Band took the first spot and soon had the Buzz going with the strong vocal interpretations of McKinlay's favourites. What a beautifully balanced band this is, not one instrumentalist trying to outdo the other in the

instrumental breaks, and having the self discipline to drop back into a secondary role as soon as the lead singer takes up the melody. It is such a simple exercise but so few bands appear to have mastered this skill that it has almost become a forgotten art, or have they forgotten the skill and are therefore unable to master the art? Whatever the answer, there is no doubting the skill and ability of McKinlay's current line up to play a superbly controlled set; and it is that capacity which keeps his bands in the forefront of British country music.

● Iona and Andy are firm favourites wherever they appear, but what an excellent sounding board for anyone's talent this Border Club audience is. There is no doubt their quiet concentration during a performance, and their receptivity can lift the mediocre to good, the good to brilliant, and the brilliant to phenomenal, and such was the case this particular evening, it was patently obvious both sets of artists wanted to go on, but in the end time caught up with us all.

● There is no doubt this was a night that will linger in everyone's memory for a long time. The music, the songs, and the club's members presentation to Margaret Trotter at the end of the evening, then the finale with all the artists and Margaret on stage, made me realise how lucky we all were to have been there.

Vaya con Dios, Margaret.



Margaret Trotter photographed at an earlier celebration with Gerry Ford



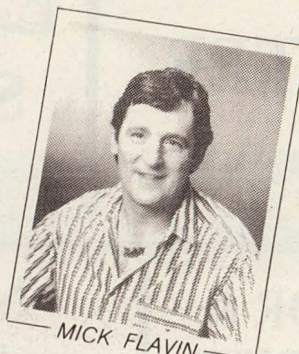
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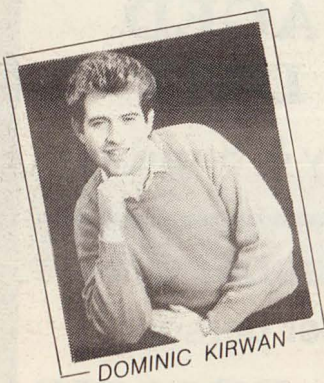
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MICK FLAVIN

Introducing:
DOMINIC KIRWAN



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	24th	HATFIELD, FORUM	07072-71217
MONDAY	25th	NEW BRIGHTON, FLORAL PAVILION	051-6394360
TUESDAY	26th	IPSWICH, CORN EXCHANGE	0473-215544
WEDNESDAY	27th	DUNSTABLE, QUEENSWAY HALL	0582-603326
THURSDAY	28th	HAYES, BECK THEATRE	01-561-8371
FRIDAY	29th	LINCOLN, RITZ THEATRE	0522-546313
SATURDAY	30th	LEWISHAM, LEWISHAM THEATRE	01-690-0002



OCTOBER

SUNDAY	1st	CHATHAM, CENTRAL HALL	0634-403868
TUESDAY	3rd	GLASGOW, PAVILION THEATRE	041-3321846
THURSDAY	5th	WICK, ASSEMBLY ROOMS	059-32448
FRIDAY	6th	ABERDEEN, CAPITOL THEATRE	0224-583141
SATURDAY	7th	DUNDEE, WHITEHALL THEATRE	0382-23141 ext. 4288
SUNDAY	8th	INVERNESS, EDEN COURT THEATRE	0463-221718

Country Music ROUND UP

ULSTER REGION

By Richard Dudgeon, 10 Kitchener Street, Belfast BT12 6LE. Tel. 0232 240415.



Gerry Boyle

● J. S. Gordon (formerly Kid Wayne) faced the biggest crowd of his professional career when he volunteered to appear at a charity concert in aid of the London Irish community who have fallen on hard times. Said Kid Wayne, 'It's something I just had to do — these people deserve help.' Among the well known artists were Susan McCann, Joe Dolan and John Hogan who appeared along with quite a few other Irish country artists in front of 70,000 fans at the London Irish Festival at Roundwood Park. 'J.S.' hails from Dromore, County Down, has increased his popularity among the record buying public with his latest release 'Back To My Home In Ireland', a song which is much requested on stage and is still enjoying extensive air play on the radio network.

● Gerry Boyle claims he's at peace with the world when he sits on the

stone wall outside his home playing his guitar or learning new songs, yet solitude like that is becoming something of a rarity for the singer whose versatility has him in growing demand on both sides of the Irish sea. Over the years Gerry has been presented with various awards such as favourite entertainer, and favourite singer for his contribution to country and Irish music, at several prestigious award shows, but when Boyle took to the road with a new band 'Southern Express' he was well aware that he was taking something of a gamble. Investing in a new wagon, new PA system and new faces with new arrangements, but the risk is beginning to pay off for this former cabaret artist.

● A big breakthrough is also expected shortly for Geri O'Kane following her first album release entitled 'It's All Right Now'. Watch for her, with her band The Coasters. She has already won the hearts of members at the various local country clubs.

● Mel Turner's latest album 'Portrait' is doing very well. Mel has returned from a short Welsh tour and heads off again to England in September.



Geri O'Kane

Country Music ROUND UP

SHADES OF GREEN

By Donal K. O'Boyle, 'Bunbeg,' Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Tel. 075 31176.



John Kerr

● Balladeer John Kerr has decided to move into the country arena as Dolphin Records re-issue his much requested album 'John Kerr Sings Country And Irish'. The album was recorded back in the late 70s and issued by Philips Records. Over the years the singer was inundated with requests to re-issue it following almost non-stop airplays by country dee-jays on the demised pirate radio stations. With a superb line-up of backing musicians, John has included such great numbers as 'The Bold Engineer', 'Gold Mine In The Sky', 'From Here, To There, To You', 'Banderra Waltz' and the much requested 'This Song Is Just For You' are included on the 12 track collection. John topped the Irish charts with his copies, and his albums and singles have gained him three gold discs to date. 'John Kerr Sings Country And Irish' is an album worthy of any collection.

● Following the success of her stage presentation 'A Tribute To The Legendary Patsy Cline', staged in Dublin's Breamore Rooms, singer Sandy Kelly plans to take the show on tour around the country. With Sandy and her band performing all of the late Patsy Cline golden hits, the show was fully booked for its scheduled two-week run, and with many disappointed fans around who failed to purchase ticket sin time. As yet no dates or venues for the nationwide tour for the show, but Sandy has hopes it will be before the end of the year.

● Singer Pat O'Neill and his band who have collected thousands of pounds for the Heart and Cancer Fund in Northern Ireland, have donated the royalties from his new album 'A Song For You' to this charity also. On the album issued on the MRM label, Pat sings fourteen songs from '21 Acres Of Land' to 'Gentle Mother'. A fine collection, and the royalties going to a most worth cause.

● Euro Gold Star award '89 winner Mary Duff returns with a tender ballad 'One Bird On A Wing' composed by Mick Hanley. Big Tom and his reformed Mainliners have a new EP on the market 'My Own Rolling Row' as the title track. A new name to country is Shaun Cuddy and his debut EP for K-Tel is called 'Little Nell'. A superb version of 'The Wedding Song' is issued by Tony Kenny himself. Celebrating 25 years on the bandstand Margo returns with a single 'A New Tomorrow' and a new album 'A Trip Through Ireland' both issued by I&B Records. A trio known as Unity emerge with a strong album of country'n'Irish songs 'I Believe In Me'. And from Harmac a top compilation album entitled 'Ireland's Favourites' with names such as Susan McCann, Foster and Allen, Kathy Durkin, etc, in action.

● In the RTE Guide Country Popularity Poll, compiled by 2FM host Brian Carthy, Daniel O'Donnell was voted favourite Male Vocalist, while Louise Morrissey was voted Top Female Vocalist. Following the demise of the Kerry Cowboys, lead singer Dermot Moriarty has teamed up with Tim Kiley to form a new duo known as the Country Cousins, and enjoying tremendous popularity in their native County Kerry. RTE Live at 3 co-presenter Derek Davis is off to Nashville to record a new single and album there.

● Tony Allen of Foster and Allen fame had a busy summer, by night he was touring with his country band, and by day he was to be found working in his new 24 track studio Roseland Recording Studio in Moate.

● Former Rockabilly Rebels lead singer Martin Gildea is back in action with a new act called Daddy and Me, as he teams up with his teenage daughter Michelle.

● Delighted to see Kathy Durkin back in action after her recent road accident. She looks and sounds just as good as ever.

● With Century Radio on the air on September 4th and a host of local radio stations already on air, many local country acts are now keen to return to the recording market.

Name . . .
Which country singer says his album sold 100,000, but accounts show that only 250 copies were pressed?

Country Music ROUND UP

HOME COUNTIES

By Hannah Valize, 5 Lakeland Drive, Camberley GU16 5LD. Tel. 0276 24504.

● Because of holidays I did not attend many venues last month, but I did manage my usual club nights . . . at the H-Bar-C there was Wesley Parker backed by Dave McQueen and Power Band. It was a night of solid country — no idle chat. Wesley has recorded four albums and sang many numbers from them, including some originals, one of which was 'The Storm'.

● Gerry Ford brought in a full house the following week. His main repertoire was many medleys of old favourites and a couple of his own compositions 'Daddy's Farm' and 'They Call Him Boxcar Willie'. He proved that the 'golden oldies' can still be very popular.

● A six-man band from Gloucester, True Grit, who had only been together for four months were also entertaining; they included many Waylon Jennings' songs in their first two sets but for the third turned more to western swing.

● The following show was Memphis Short who included a lot of talent in his backing group The Grand Canyon. There was John Vickers on banjo, fiddle and

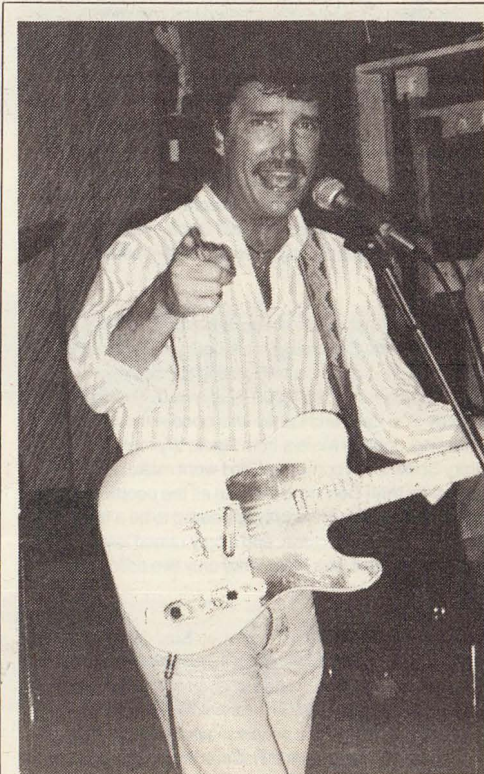
bass, John Philpott on drums, Bob Dixon, well known for his pedal steel, also playing bass, and guesting was John Dunsterville on lead guitar and helping out on vocals. A couple of originals recently written by Memphis 'I Am Just Me' and 'Wheeler-dealer Man' are also included on one of the three cassettes he had for sale. Memphis ended his show with the Rod Stewart's 'Sailing' done in true country style.

● I was sorry to miss Nashville Fever at Fort Worth but Sylvia reported that they were as popular as ever. The second week was Memphis Roots. All the lads now take turns at lead vocals and do some beautiful harmonies, leaving Ed to sing the more laid back numbers, who injects a lot of humour into his act. He is a real entertainer with even his facial expressions worth watching. The band seemed to be a happy outfit, enjoying what they were doing! John Keys, the drummer and band spokesman, told me that on their recent tour with Joe Sun they had had a good chance to slowly get their act together. One of their outstanding songs is the Gerry Morris number 'Sweet Red Wine'. Their new tape is called 'One Step Forward 2nd Edition' and includes several numbers from their original 'One Step Forward'.

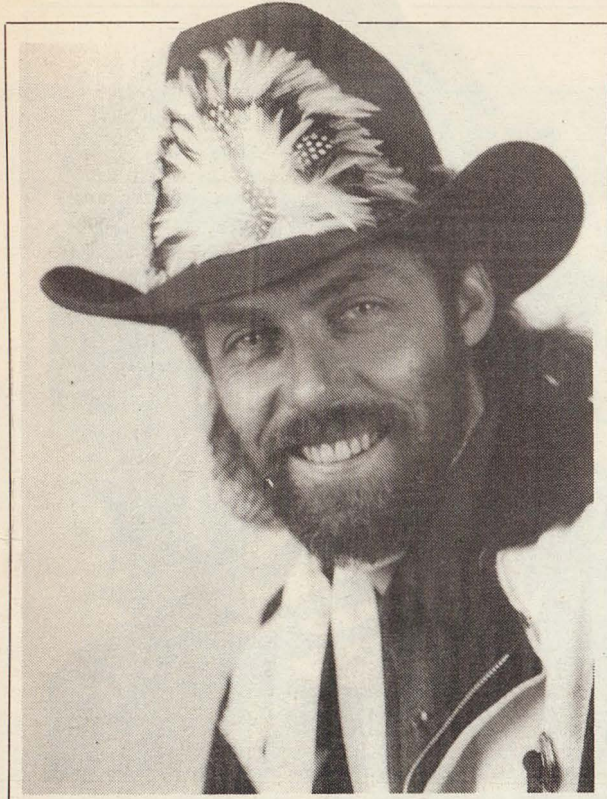
● The country music night now takes place every last Wednesday in the month at the British Legion Club Winnersh, near Reading. I saw Wing Span there. Following a few changes in their line-up they seem to have hit it right this time. Knowing that many of their audience had come for an evening of socialising and dancing they played a repertoire of well known songs. Eddy, on lead vocals, has all the actions of a 50s rock singer which obviously went down very well as they got two more bookings from the club, one for November and a special Saturday date for January!

● After stating at the beginning of this article that I did not have much news from different venues, another of my first visits was to the Theale Social and Recreation Club (also near Reading). They now have a country music night twice a month on alternate Saturdays and Sundays. The night I went Norman Mourant with his OTT band was playing, bringing in many of his usual followers. A couple of visiting artists in the audience did a very good guest spots; Clive Wheeler, who had come all the way from Wales, sang 'Midnight Rodeo' and John Fink, a local gent, sang 'My Shoes Keep Walking Back To Me'. This is a nice little club and well worth a visit.

● I saw Lyle Lovett in concert on one of his dates at the Dominion Theatre which were nearly sell outs. The crowds loved him, his bluesy yet unique drawling personality drew great applause. It proved that there is a place for all kinds of country music although it is not my own favourite style.



Wesley Parker



Jim Ryder

● The Americana on Newark Showground was a mini version of the Jamboree, yet unlike the Grantham event, it was a huge success, with record numbers attending. The idea of mixing an American car exhibition and various arena activities with country music works well for organisers Chris and Bev Jackson, who after struggling for a few years deserve the success that is beginning to come their way. Even though I only managed to attend part of the Saturday afternoon show I was impressed with what I saw of this two-day event. Excellent spots from Dillinger, Mel Hague Band and Jim Ryder, with Tony Andrews and his new line up L.A. Riders also appearing. Great to see fans I know from other areas there, especially Bill and Peg Ostler of Hull CMC. Joe Sadio was compere and did a great job. The beer tent proved popular, especially when laced with the wit and friendliness of some Yorkshire lads, who provided me with lots of jokes and only slightly fewer cans of Budweiser — must do it again soon — my round.

● Most people who know me, know of the high regard I have for Pete Naden's old band — Smiley Bowker,

Dave Naden and Chris Robinson, and of course Pete himself. When the amicable split occurred earlier this year, I had doubts about Pete being able to replace them — especially Smiley, who's superb work on guitar truly complemented Pete's vocals. At this year's CMRU House Party my doubts deepened. I know Pete wasn't very happy with his new lead players attitude and felt his performance was suffering. So it was with the intention of supporting a long standing friend — not the expectation of seeing a superb band in action that I visited Freds Place, Gelding M.W., Nottingham. As soon as I spoke to Pete before he went on stage, I sensed something special was in the offing. It was, via Brian Cockayne, the band's new lead player from Liverpool, who fits Pete's style to perfection. With great support from old stalwart Joe Brown on drums and Mick Timmis on bass, Brian proved to be in complete sympathy with whatever mood Pete chose to reflect in his repertoire — the result — a super performance from Pete and the band. Pick of the night a marvellous version of Pete's self-penned 'The End Of My Romance'.

● Having banquetted alongside Gerry Ford on the eve of the Jamboree, and experienced on that occasion his charm and humour (we supped some stuff that night),

my estimation of him rose considerably. His opening of the Monday show at the Jamboree, where he put into words most peoples thoughts, put him near top of the list of people I truly respect, therefore when the opportunity of saying thank you in person arose — via his show at Freds Place — I was there early. Performance wise Gerry is a little too laid back for my taste, however, he is totally professional in his approach and his self-penned numbers such as 'Thank God For The Radio', 'Daddy's Farm' and 'let's Hear It For The Working Man' are excellent. The band — Harry Sullivan, lead guitar; Jim Crowe, bass; Jim Gibb, pedal steel and Frazer Dougall, drums, were good without ever having to push themselves beyond a sedate trot.

● At the risk of upsetting Round Up's proprietor elect, Mr. M. Green, his article 'Cowboy's Out' in last month's issue made me see red, then left me feeling blue — 'Green In The Country' — was more like 'Green About The Country' on this occasion. If that's the intended new image for Round Up, then there is no hope for its future.

● An unusual request — has any reader got a recording of 'One Wore Blue And Wore Grey' by Kay Star, either for sale or loan? If so, drop me a line. Info etc to usual address and stay lucky.

EAST MIDLANDS

By Pete Griffin, 71 Beckley Road, Nottingham NG8 6GX.

Country
Music
ROUND UP

● After their August break the Astoria, Leeds, move their country night to a Wednesday in order not to clash with other country activities in the city. Highlight of the month will no doubt be the George Hamilton IV show featuring David and Carlton Moody; and the Western Rodeo Band may get to play there in October. Failing that, the show is set to appear at Hull City Hall.

● The benefit gig in aid of 'Maurice' held at the Metro Club, Sovereign Street, was a resounding success with the proceeds also being distributed amongst local charities. Musical highlights were many but as always Denis's stand up/sit down bingo caused much mirth. Acts generously appearing were Collier Dixon Line, Dillinger, Jeannie Dee and Gordon Lemondine. Don't



Jeannie Dee

forget the 'End of the Line' show at Castleford Civic Centre and as usual in aid of the Wakefield Dyslexia Group.

● Good to see Pinto Bennett and the Famous Motel Cowboys back in the UK and enjoying a highly successful tour. A fine band who don't cut corners, featuring the twin lead guitars of Sergio Webb and Robbie Matson. Sergio achieving a new high (or low) of playing with a half full beer glass in his hand, hitting every note and not spilling a drop! Pinto is a fine songwriter, new numbers included the waltz paced 'Somewhere In Time' but not forgetting to give acknowledgement to a favourite craftsman, Richard Dobson. I had a smashing night at Bottershaw Lane, Bradford, courtesy of Dillinger.

● On the local radio front Tex Miln has moved to the new 'Classic Gold' radio station and can be heard between 7 and 10 pm each evening on six medium wavelengths and longtime Pennine country DJ Peter Fairhead is set to broadcast Monday to Friday from 5 to 7 pm each day.

● I received a chatty letter from Peggy and Bill Ostler of Hull CMC telling me that their club is going well and that they also had a very enjoyable night with Dillinger. Peggy and Bill also kindly sent me a map so we out-of-townies can get it right first time!

● Mr. Golden Rose alias Del Robinson of exciting import records and harmonica fame has almost recovered from his broken limb but not as yet he says up to performing the Texas two step.

● Birmingham City Council promoted last weekend the 2nd Annual Country Festival at Cannon Hill Park as part of their Centenary shows. Sponsored by Cadburys, the all-day affair featured local heroes Ken Harris and Stationbreak, Bakersfield (UK) and Legend, who are one of the few born-again country bands, as Legend are currently backing Vernon Oxford on his latest UK gospel tour; but gospel was far from their minds as Vernon headlined the festival. To add a different flavour to this 'free' event was Los Pisterleros with Bobby Valentino and B. J. Cole nearly putting 'Asleep at the Wheel' to shame!

● Abandoning last year's set up of performing on the flat roof of the Arts Centre Bar, a proper tented stage and an enormous marquee come dressing room allowed better presentation to the 3,000-plus crowd. The sound system by Sub Zero and Laney was good without being ear blasting. Johnny Meiers from Radio Wyvern's Country Show and I compered, so I won't make any comment on that! Don't know where all the people from the local clubs were, there only appeared to be a few from each venue who came, and it only rained twice. Great thing about it was there were only two policemen on duty all day.

● Raymond Froggatt did a show that 'Sold Out' the Stag CMC at St. Mary's in Cannock just with club members and friends. Listened to one of Frog's nice little gestures, a young lad who has quite a learning problem had written him a couple of poems about life. So Frog had his music master H. Cai lay down a music bed while he read the poems, they put it on cassette and sent it back to him. Incidentally Raymond is now beginning to put together another album.

● Trevor Cooper who has run the Stag at St. Mary's Centre for the last five years has turned the venue into one of the more successful country and high entertainment spots, now looks set to take over as manager of the overall complex (we wish him every success).

● Winds of change are again blowing through local bands. Alan Westwood has dropped his outfit to concentrate on solo work. Johnny Santee, vocalist/keyboard player, is leaving Rio Grande to front Mels Fargo who until recently played as Shiloh behind Billy Farnsworth. Johnny's place with Rio Grande is being taken by Ray Franklin, perhaps better known for his time with Hamilton's Power.

● Dave Stevens is leaving the area to move to Essex. Dave worked mainly as a solo.

● Johnny Meier opened his club at the Rose and Crown on Wednesday for a bluegrass special with touring American act Lynne Morris Band, which included two sidemen from Johnny Martin's band.

● John O'Boyles 'Gin Bound' resembled the old 'Cotton Gin' line-up recently with Ingrid from Indigo Lady sitting in on drums for a couple of gigs!

● Local promoter Derek O'Halloran tells me he is no longer associated with the Original Double 'M' Club at Wimblebury, the music is now being promoted by the venue owner who is holding all the bookings firm at present!

NORTH EAST REGION

By Eve Morris, 18 Powell Street, Harrogate HG1 4BY. Tel. 0423 508081.

Country
Music
ROUND UP

● Pat and Roger Johns with Dave Bryan made a welcome return to York CMC with Dave sporting a neatly trimmed beard and freshly coiffed hair. Pity that Yorkshire TV rang him later in the day to book his services as a tramp. The trio are strong supporters of British country music and usually manage to sneak in the odd number written by Brian Golbey. On this occasion it was the sad story of Methey Jones. Some of the older numbers in their repertoire go back to the 50s with a tidy cowboy medley and other numbers that have long since been lost along the way. Good to see Lillian Smith at the gig, as always giving strong support to Ann and Mike Easton.

● Tony C. Weston has another cassette available and it's up to his usual standard. Tony provided an enjoyable night at the Harrogate CMC with his own self penned numbers and a good mixture of both old and new songs. Later in the month was the turn of Johnny Marks who is very popular with the older age group.

● In an effort to keep the noise down and the rowdies out the landlord of the Crown in Boston Spa has decided to introduce a door charge. It will commence this month and will no doubt bring relief to both performers and audience.



Dave Bryan

WEST MIDLANDS

By Jim Duncan, 148 Warrens Way, Telford TF7 5QF. Tel. 0952 583672.

Country
Music
ROUND UP

● Darren Busby played to a packed house at the Alamo at the Cleveland Arms (Willenhall), the crowd was boosted by a 50-strong hen party who completed Darren's education into working in honky tonks. Anita, the organiser, tells me he blushed beautifully but his music was inspired?

● Reports of the Smokey Mountain CMC's annual festival, sponsored by Ansells Beers, say that for the first time the event was on a break-even attendance and now looks certain for next year, this year's show headlined by the Hillsiders with Hobo, the Lazyacre Roadshow, Down County Boys, The Gin Band and Bandwaggon trio was rated as one of the top music mixes locally for a long time.

● Delta Dawn are now on the road as a five piece for the larger venues, including their first time at the End-Of-The-Trail in Kempsey Common.

● Congratulations to Tony Best on the arrival of his latest grandchild, young Tom Richards, who will no doubt star on TBL functions, with his Mum Lynne and proud drummer Dad, Andy.



Tony Best

Country Music ROUND UP

EAST ANGLIA REGION

By June Wilson, 94 Magpie Road, Norwich NR3 4JG.



Steel and McCashin

● We will soon see the end of the Radio Broadland country music nights at the Winter Gardens, Great Yarmouth. A good selection of bands have been presented throughout the season, and this month features the newly re-formed Mississippi Delta, Pinkertons Colours, Nashville Fever and Memphis Roots, among others. Saturday, 30th, and Sunday, October 1st, there will be an end-of-the-season two-day festival featuring Colorado, Denim and Lace, Kelvin Henderson, Sylvie and Sylva Dollar and New Dawn.

● I omitted previously to mention the change of date for the Mary Duff evening at the Apollo Club, Harleston, this is now set for October 14th and support act will be the excellent duo Steel and McCashin.

● Unfortunately I missed the country music day which formed part of the recent King's Lynn festival, the bands were Essex's Greta and the Stray Shots and Pinto Bennet and his band. (See full report elsewhere.)

● I was very impressed with my first visit to the Sylva Saddle CMC who meet at the Friendlies Club, Great Russell Street in Northampton on alternate Fridays. The band on this occasion was Adeys Hardware Co who had just had a vacation on the Norfolk Broads, and played a good mix of traditional and modern country music, including one of the best versions of 'Tulsa Time' that I've heard. I highlighted two Steve Earle numbers 'Angry Young Man' and 'Copperhead Road' which so far seems to be my British band highlight of this year! Adey's are a great bunch, lead by Dave Adey, you can find them at the end of this month at their first gig at the Rod and Gun Club at RAF Lakenheath, and just before you read this they will have appeared on a Norfolk stage for the first time at the Norfolk Country Festival at Strumpshaw Hall Park. The band will soon be releasing a record/cassette, I believe from what I've heard it's going to be a good one.

● I took a run out to Gunton Hall to have a look at the site for the CMRU Awards weekend to be held at the end of November (see information elsewhere in this publication). This is the Warners holiday venue, which is just off the A12 near Lowestoft. There is a lake running through the site which makes it very picturesque and all the usual holiday requirements are on hand for the family. The dining room (where CMRU guests will be

dining on the Friday evening) is very nice and situated in the older part of the hall, almost adjacent to a smaller coffee house/restaurant. Of course, my main point of interest was the ballroom where I will be conducting western dance sessions on the Saturday and Sunday mornings of the weekend, this, again, is a superb venue, and there is a smaller night club/disco elsewhere as well. With bands such as Nashville Fever, Stu Page Band and the Tony House Band so far confirmed for the weekend, and set in such an excellent location as this Warners site, I would recommend early booking — may I also recommend the dance classes?

● As I go to press, news is to hand that Randy Travis will be appearing at the Cambridge Corn Exchange in the first few days of November.

● Norwich-based Nashville Fever are off to the States this month to play gigs in Nashville and Texas. This band very ably backed 'Hege' George V on the main stage at Grantham, and it seems that doors are finally opening for this band who stuck to their original self-penned presentation over the last seven years or so.

● The Blacksmiths CMC have moved back to the Blacksmiths Arms at Thornwood Common, Epping, which is also the home of my western dance club on Wednesdays (the CMC is there on Monday nights). The club also has a Saturday special with Dixie and Allon on the 2nd The first weekend of this month sees a two-day rodeo in Essex at the Bar-S-Ranch, Harwood Hall Lane, Upminster, featuring rodeo events and live country music.

Country Music ROUND UP

SOUTHERN STYLE

By Ernie Sears, 15 Crichton House, Queens View, Rotary Court, Netley Abbey SO3 5EX. Tel. 0703 453115.

● A busier than usual month, thanks to Jeff and Joy Weston who picked me up from the railway station and fed and bedded me on the occasions when trains weren't running! One night to remember was seeing the massive frame of Memphis Short with Grand Canyon Mark II at Bill Cody's place at Purbrook (Portsmouth area), another charity 'do' and what a night that was. Memphis and his band (well, more like an orchestra!) blew up a storm and pulled a massive crowd, delighted us all with a wide variety of songs, notably 'On The Other Hand', 'Before I Met You', and some tasteful bluegrass in 'Foggy Mountain Breakdown', etc, although their 'orange Blossom Special' got hung up far too long as they struggled to find the way around the intro! Still, very talented musicians, the two steelies doubled excellently on mandolin and fiddle, with big Memphis holding it all together nicely. The lad himself is very disillusioned with the country scene however . . . 'not getting anywhere' after all these years was the general theme. Well, no viable answer to that, old mate . . . just keep going, keep working on that weight problem, hopefully 'luck' will help, and sorry it's taken me so long to get to hear you!

● At Waterlooville's Country Club (Tuesdays and run by 'Jack' on an almost non-profitmaking basis for three years) I caught up after ten years with the delightful Champions (Yvonne and Norman). A top notch Sussex based duo that did many good gigs for yours truly in my

agency days, neither of 'em look or sound older and petite Yvonne still positively sparkles with humour. At the same venue saw Pete Henry who gave the usual small but friendly crowd some superb country and connected numbers — he has a fine voice and personality and his fairly recently recorded cassette sold well there. I met up with friends not seen for years, Maureen and John who recalled the 'old' Southsea Rock Gardens, they now live in Brighton so now support Neil Coppendale's club.

A 'one off' charity gig on July 21st at Leigh Park WM Club was run by the Portsmouth Buffalo Indian Village. This solidly packed and very nice club featured Buckboard, who I rate as one of the top-notchers, and excellent duo Jan Mark and Norman Russell. I liked Buckboard's 'Forever And Ever Amen', an up-tempo version, didn't like the almost continuous roar of conversation from the large contingent of 'social club' members present in the fine hall . . . all but drowned the music; but appreciate that it was a 'bums on seats' necessity! I did 'shows' there in the sixties and it wasn't a lot different noise-wise but the actual clubroom is something to be envied.

● Elsewhere I saw more excellent bands at Southampton's Wildwood South CMC and heard the good news that they are again solvent through generous country people and in fact their attendances were very good the occasions I was there. Frisco were on top form

and for a three-piece turn out some good danceable country . . . wish other clubs would do away with their expressed dislike of anything less than a four-piece and give these boys a go. 'Class' they have, instrumentally and vocally.

● Another knockout night at this club was furnished by Nashville Fever. 'Cowboy' Ken Blake said 'the best in the country' and I wouldn't argue with that much. They deserved the big crowd they got, but I missed out on another of my favourites, Greta and the Stray Shots as I was at the Waterlooville Commanderoes CMC on the same Saturday. Sorry! Wingspan were the guest band there, and on my second hearing within a month, I again found them outstanding with a very original style, 'new' versions of 'oldies' such as 'Bobbie McGhee', 'Jambalaya', etc, etc, their lead guitarist has got 'miracle hands' I can tell you! Very good lead vocalist who isn't afraid to 'move' on stage. Swindon is their base, they get out on long weekends, be sure to get 'em at your club.

● Over at Hilsea's Portsmouth CMC at the Blue Lagoon again I saw Wingspan. I will only repeat myself, they were good! I missed an excellent John C. King Band visit but caught up with Chalk Valley on another Monday, again a popular and fairly 'local' favourite of most punters, even if they do play a lot of 'slow' songs in the early stages (it was probably because of the hot weather), don't be fooled by us 'old 'uns' boys, we can still turn a nifty step or two on the floor! I even sat one or two out 'cos they were too slow.

● On my first 1989 visit to the vast Pyramids at Southsea I saw the knockout band Freddy Jameson and Convoy (they've a good cassette too), they had a nep drummer who was good. Pity that the beautiful venue

(badly needed for top shows in country) drew only about fifty punters, at times Joy and I were the only two on the dance floor, and so far manager Brett Cresswell says it's the 'norm'. Once again, maybe, just maybe, it's that unusually hot weather? Although the air-conditioning is first class at the Pyramids, waitress service, if you want, there's even your actual 'fun pool', etc, there right next door. Promoter Derek Harper is understandably sad about it but was brave enough to take his lovely wife Merle on the dance floor too! Hopefully the rest of the season (September) will perk the numbers up a bit.

● My remaining trips involved the Lost Leaders Club at Park Gate Royal British Legion. Tulsa Time pulled a bigish crowd, a superb band for vocals and instrumentals. Although I'm not too enthusiastic about the 'Reverends' little fund-raising cabaret spot, having heard the jokes about that little old hut down the garden, toilet rolls old style, and such relevant 'below the belt' subjects, there are those who still fall about, so who am I? Also at the Lost Leaders Club a new 'un to me, Montana Country Band, proved OK after a somewhat shaky start which seemed like lack of confidence, and I had to sprint for my last train back for once 'cos they kept me dancing! Comparisons with other clubs (the band were on a 14-day 'tour' (finishing in Cornwall) was surprising. One venue told me they were 'the worst band they'd ever heard', another 'journalist' said much the same thing, whilst Kinson's (Bournemouth) Silver Dollar Club rated them first class after one or two equipment adjustments! Odd, isn't it? Comments welcome . . . as always. I'd stick my neck out and say they are well worth booking: good steelie, the girl singer is fine provided she can be heard, probably needs a trifle more 'dressy' gear on stage, general equipment is essential and pre-gig sound checks do help.

Country Music ROUND UP

LONDON SCENE

By Tony Anderson, 40 Cole Close, London SE28 8AU. Tel. 01-310 2792.



Rio

● It's red face and humble pie period to commence with this month as you may recall I wrote in last month's copy that Jeff and Billy had closed the doors of the club at Northumberland Heath. Well first of all let me disclaim that state of affairs and tell you that the club is still alive and kicking. Yes, I should have telephoned and checked my facts but having been informed from two 'reliable' sources that the club had closed it's doors I relied on their previous impeccable information and felt extremely sorry that we had lost another venue. So, Jeff and Billy please accept my apologies for this error and let's hope that the club now named the Stage Door CMC continues to open it's doors and stage country music for many years to come on a Sunday evening.

● I read with interest Pete Griffin's comments in last month's issue and understood exactly how he felt regarding the 'country scene' at the moment because although I have now rid myself of the gloom coupled from Grantham and that broken wrist (although I now have to suffer twice weekly assaults at Physio) and with the staging of my daughter's recent 21st birthday bash the month was again eaten into — who says country scribes have it easy? . . . it was manna from heaven with the recent news that Radio Thamesmead had been granted one of the franchises in the recent upheaval with the new stations. This meant that my 'In Country' programme which I have presented over the last nine years will now be available to 300,000 instead of the 'cabled' audience of 28,000. More details of this though when they come to hand (should be next month's copy).

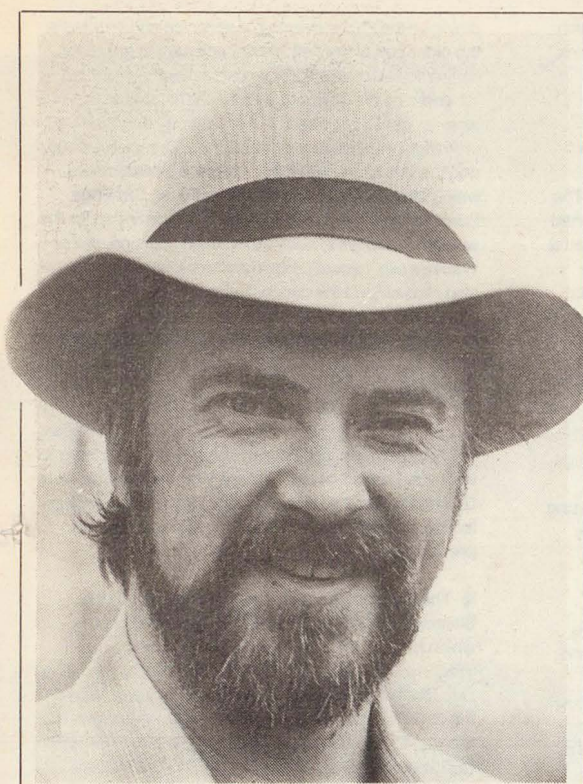
● Saw the Ken Phillips Country Band recently must say that with the present line up they have tightened things a great deal, remembering the problems he had with the group due to bereavement and other causes. Although

they stuck to just tried and tested numbers, gave their audience on a warm sticky evening just the kind of country the weather demanded.

● I hear that Woolwich Town Hall could soon become the venue for country music (I shall watch with interest). One venue already solid country on a Saturday evening is the Crosby Head at Old Street, EC1, where successive Saturdays during September (that's a tongue twister) will have appearances from Shabracque, Ken Phillips, Shiloh, Silver Wings and Misty Blue, man behind the move is Alan Cook and remember admission is free.

● I see that country veteran (she won't mind me calling her that) Skee Laird and Cool Country are back on the road. Skee, who of course, together with Joan Dawson, runs that Calamity Jane club at Woolwich Catholic club always could twist her tonsils around a good old country song — so you younger songhtrushes watch out there's a Skee about.

● See that long running Grange Country Music Club is moving venues to London Transport Pavilion, 565 Great West Road, Hounslow, this month; it is just opposite Osterley Tube Station with an entrance in Gresham Road, and appearing this month on Sunday evenings are Country Echoes, Rio, Slightly Faded and the Rogue Band . . . While on about moves I see that the Blacksmith CMC has returned to its 'ancestral' home at the Blacksmith Arms in Thornwood . . . Ex Five Cents bass guitarist Lenny Clarke is seeking a country group . . . I see October 7th Pam and Alan Woodhouse Mustang club in downtown Canvey Island are hosting a charity special in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind featuring Mary Duff plus Rio



Mel Hague

● Emmie Harris, a solo artist from this area has appeared at the Silver Dollar CMC at the Plough Inn, Aberaman, Mid-Glam, venue on a number of occasions. I find this good looking girl's playing and singing refreshing, her material included 'Til I Gain Control Again', a hit for Emmylou Harris, written by Rodney Crowell, and her performance indicated she could far with the right connections. Her real name is Christine Evans but she makes no secret of who is her idol, by her stage name, although she performs a varied range of numbers.

● Fairwater Social and Athletic Club, Cardiff, was formerly the home of the Fairso Country Music Club. Now after many years Dave Norman and friends have resurrected the local country scene and put on a show featuring Wild Whiskey and Lace. The good turn out must have meant that Dave and his co-workers had gone to town on the arrangements as Cardiff hasn't been a happy hunting ground for country. But the band, two guys and two gals, didn't impress me too much, but they had only been a few months on the road so have time to improve, and I'm sure they will! Their material could probably do with freshening up as I think too many bands in the middle of the road, but as not too many of the audience were totally country committed, the night was obviously successful financially, so it's looking good for the future.

SOUTH WALES

By Frank Power, 1 Alma Road, Roath, Cardiff CF2 5BD. Tel. 0222 492021.

Country Music
ROUND UP

● Mel Hague brought his country band to the Bridgend Recreation Centre, Mid-Glam, and although it had changed personnel, it remains a very good four-piece outfit, who pleased the crowd on a very hot and humid night. Ole Gravel Boots went through his routine beautifully, varying techniques, volumes and on style, which a lot of other bands could take note of. We were thoroughly entertained. Surprisingly, it was a tied and tested old number, 'Help Me Make It Through The Night' that caught my attention, with Mel and the band giving it their special treatment, which proves that if the band is a good 'un, the done to death songs sound amazingly good.

● 'Old Worn Out Cowboys' from Dave Nash and the US Mail, did my heart good, and I was glad Dave hadn't forgotten it (entirely). Terry on lead gave us some tremendous instrumentals, while Bob on bass sounded deep and dominant. Medicine Bow made a return to this limited capacity club, the OK CMC at the Malpas Unionist Club, Newport, on the week following Dave Nash. A full house for this seven-piece group. Medicine Bow are a swinging, modern, award-winning ensemble who go through their paces with traditional gusto. 'Honey' and 'The Devil Went Down To Georgia'

sounded good, although I prefer the 'Orange Blossom Special' as a finale, but the weather was exceptionally hot, and it might have melted the fiddles. 'Farther Down The Line' was my pick of the night from this tremendous (Dave Cawes led) band. Candy Mountain, with Di, Ed, Selwyn and the lads, now in the process of disbanding, kept their existing gig arrangements, and once again cheered us up here at the OK. A poor attendance for this one, nothing to do with this popular band. 'How Great Thou Art' was sung sweetly by Diana, who also did a lovely version of the Lee Greenwood number 'Wind Beneath My Wings'. Hopefully the group will get back together later on. Closing the month at the OK venue were Translantic Freeway (which is how they spell it) from West Wales. They introduced their alternative lead vocalist 'Don Williams' for a few numbers, including 'In Old Mexico'. Sharron, who leads, vocally when other work allows, gave a confident performance, well backed by a band which leans towards Highway 101 (the USA band) presentation which isn't a bad thing. 'Somewhere Tonight' is a classy, catchy tune. Barry, on steel, brought some lovely competent touches, Dai, Clive and John backing up in great fashion. It's with Translantic Freeway at the OK CMC that I linger for my star spot, Sharron's 'Stand By Your Man' in terrific style.

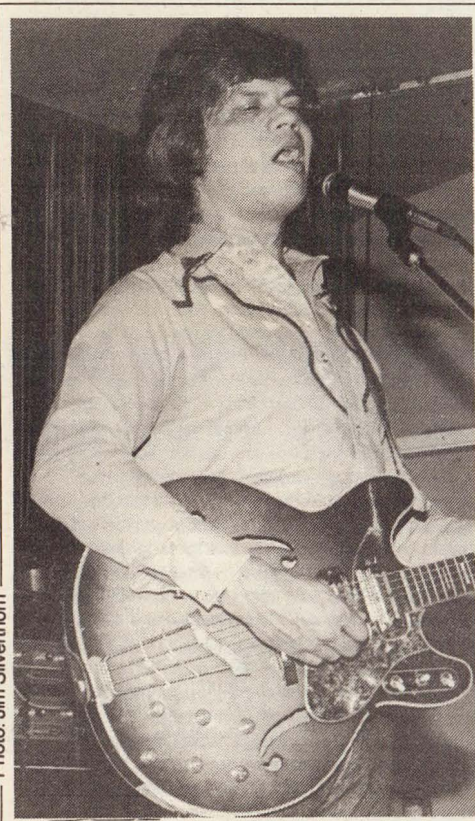


Photo: Jim Silverthorn

Cliff Whelan

● I was pleased to see Cliff Whelan back on the Bristol scene again, I caught up with him at the Hambrook Inn (Hambrook) and the Rose and Crown (Kingswood), where he provided clients with two much appreciated shows singing the songs of Jim Reeves, Marty Robbins and Slim Whitman. Cliff currently has no fixed address after his tour of Australia, so if you wish to get in touch you can ring me on 0272 671067 and I will gladly pass your message on.

● Eddie Blackstone's previous success in America has drawn him back again for another four months. He should be back in December. I've also heard from Pam Walsh that Sarah Jory had a very successful Fan Club show at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton. A trip is being organised by the club to the Dutch Steel Guitar Convention March 16th-17th, 1990, and should anyone be interested you can contact Pam on 03954 6217 for details.

● Reg Hughes phoned his report on the White Horse CMC at Westbury, Wilts, apparently Kristina Circhina (the young girl who used to sing with the Foster Boys) is now 16 years old and has a superb voice. She has formed a band, 'a super outfit' but Reg said their first set had too many sentimental ballads, but on their second set they let go and gave more variety. Reg feels this band could go places and he's hoping other organisers will give them a chance.

● Barrie writes as usual about the Swindon Silver Spur CMC: 'We had a full house for the return visit from Circuit Judge . . . a good night of country music, and apparently Jeannie Sinclair and Stateside too brought them a fair night of music.'

AVON CALLING

By Jim Silverthorn, 11 Fry's Hill, Bristol BS15 4QJ. Tel. 0272 671067.

Country Music
ROUND UP

● Isa McIsaac's notes from the Continental Divide CMC at Plymouth related that Norman Maurant and OTT Band were very good. Norman has a fine laid back deep rich voice and his band complement him very well. Numbers swelled by a coach load of visitors from the Heavy Transport Club, St Austell, Cornwall, all enjoyed themselves. The support act was Yorkie and family trio. The husband and wife on vocals and 14-year-old son on keyboard. On both old and new country their 'bubbly' personality comes across. The results of the club's popularity poll June 88/89 are as follows: (Touring Band) Stewart Bros and First Chapter; (Duo) Bob Newmand and Carole Gordon; (Solo) Johnny Spencer; (Best West Country Band) Medicine Bow.

● From Angela Phillips I received three reports this month. The first Yate and District country music festival enjoyed the skills of Neil Coppendale as compere. As people danced (despite the extreme heat) to excellent non-stop music of the Stu Page Band, Nashville Fever, Sylvie and Sylva Dollar Band and Nicky James. The excellent blend of music seemed to please the majority. The organisers obviously put a lot of thought into a good selection of food, displays, competitions and it certainly was nice to see some different type of stalls. This very good value and friendly festival ending with a dance at St Edmunds School Hall with the music once again

superbly provided by the Stu Page Band and Nicky James.

● 'Cattleman's CMC enjoyed Johnny Carter and Hurrican Ridge in fine form, his three sets kept a friendly crowd dancing. Opening with 'Fort Worth' and doing the finest version of 'Diggin Up Bones' that I have yet heard, and my own Johnny Carter favourite is still his version of 'Union Mare Confederate Grey'. Backed by his boys, Rosco, Les and Deke they also did remarkable versions of 'Bobby McGee' and 'last Dance'. Johnny also included a fine medley of Hank Williams songs, before finishing with 'Call Me The Breeze' which sent everyone home well satisfied.'

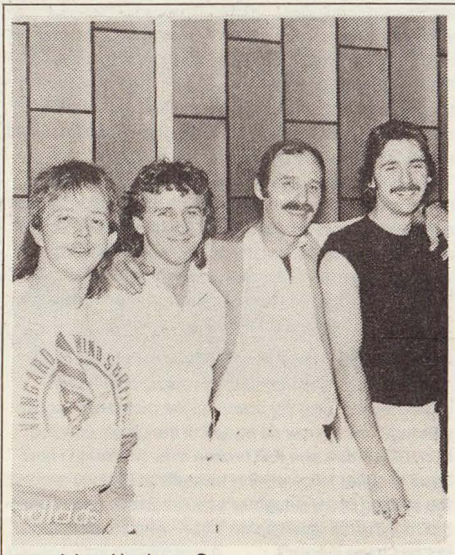
● 'If you like country music mixed with R'n'R, then the Thornbury CMC with Mike McCoy was the place to be. Mike who sings very well and yodels performed everything from Don Williams to Elvis, apparently he sang the 'trilogy' so well he had to repeat it! Numbers like 'You're My Best Friend' and 'From A Jack To A King' also really pleased the crowd. When his wife joined him on a couple of numbers it added to the excellent all round entertainment.'

● Thanks to everyone for sending to me, keep them coming.

● After five years Sheila Kenny has finally succumbed to her many other commitments and is unable to carry on with CMRU. So please join me in wishing her all the best for the future and many thanks for those five years Sheila! For those in the region who don't know me I'm Alf Toye and I will do my best to keep up her good work, but being my first attempt at this sort of thing will no doubt collect a few 'country comments' for my efforts. (Apologies locally to Pete Ryman of Country Comment for that.)

● Lots of excellent entertainment around this month. I spent two very good nights at Tony Best's Lazy Acre, Shrewsbury. Firstly Circuit Judge's usual polished performance was enhanced by a guest appearance of that delightful young lady, Sarah Jory, on pedal steel. After the break Ellie treated us to 'Georgia' and then for the rest of the evening the band, complete with Sarah, provided the backing for American entertainer Wesley Parker's mixture of standards, new numbers and some of his own. The applause said it all. Support that evening was booked as Kevin Raymond but Kevin turned up as The Applejack Trio, Kevin has teamed up with two lively young ladies from Bradford, Becky Haley (16) on lead and Jo-Ann (18) on bass. Considering they had only been together since February their vocal harmonies had to be heard to be believed. After the show the fans queued to buy their tapes, which sold out!

● Just two weeks later Yorkshire's Les Close Country Band drew a somewhat smaller audience, but they stayed in their seats right to the very end. Well supported by Jim Ryder, who had introduced some new material



Adeys Hardware Co.

into his programme since I saw him last. However, he was not allowed to sign off without some of those old favourites such as 'Rawhide'.

● Awards night at the Farmers Arms CWC, Guiting Power saw Shaun Michael collecting the Solo Artist award, and after listening to him for the first time I can understand why. Best Band award went to The Steve Raymond Band.

BORDER COUNTIES

By Alfred Toye, 1 Winthills, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3JT. Tel. 0584 890621

Country Music
ROUND UP

● Maureen's CWC (Tewkesbury) is the place to be on Friday nights. Always good entertainment at this friendly venue. During the month Adeys Hardware Co. kept the dancers on their toes, well feet anyway, but one or two I heard remark the drummers 'a little too enthusiastic'.

● On a very hot night we had John C. King Family Band. John had a little difficulty breathing, but stuck to it. Voted Most Popular British Band at Harlow, Campbells Country played to a packed house who were reluctant to let them sign off.

● I caught up with Shropshire's Delta Dawn at Craven Arms CMC this forward thinking popular outfit have added more depth to their music recently in the form of Chris and Tom's elder son, Sean, on drums. Younger son Paul, who was on bass, has now joined Shropshire Radio's Country DJ Matthew Carr's new band, Indiana Rain. Heard them at Welshpool Festival and I'm sure there will be some good music to come from them in the future. Gremlins in the electrics spoilt the festival but congratulations to compere Steve Farrar for squeezing every penny out of the punters and realising his target of £500 for the Heulwen Trust for Handicapped Children.

● I travelled to Gloucester to check on Truckstop at Dancing Ken's Cotswold Cowboys and Gals Club. Three members of this band were with the old Shiloh outfit before Billy Farnsworth took off. They've recruited a keyboard player and appear to be very popular.

● Another successful event was the (Karl James) Festival promotion at Clehonger, Hereford. A sweltering day saw a good crowd enjoy artists like Whiskey River, Steve Raymond, Hereford's ever popular Roger Wood Duo, local solo Blu Rickford and Truckstop, all well compered by Dancing Ken and Bill Evans.

● When Evesham CMC staged a Bar-B-Q and Barn Dance at Dumbleton, they featured Jon Derek and Country Fever plus West Virginia. I didn't make it to this one as the pony went lame on me, but heard the event was a great success. (That colourful character Dancing Ken gets everywhere doesn't he.)

● Good to see veteran solo act Alan Williams back in circulation following a throat operation that could have been dodgy. Sounds better than ever Alan.

Country Music ROUND UP

TYNE AND WEAR

By George Mills, 15 Coatsworth Court, Gateshead NE8 1QR. Tel. 091 4781885.

● Pinto Bennett and his Famous Motel Cowboys first came to Britain from Idaho in 1988 and appeared at both Wembley and Peterborough Festivals plus various other specialist country music venues throughout the UK. I was fortunate both to see their show and meet them at Peterborough and was determined to try and bring them up to this area. It happened on their second tour of 1989 when they appeared at the Gunfighters CMC, Jarrow, and took the capacity crowd by storm with their own brand of music—a return visit definitely guaranteed. Thanks to the various clubs in the area who supported the show, especially the Double 'B' from Pelaw who brought a crowd of about twenty-five along. It was also nice to welcome friends from the High Lane CMC at Stockport who were on holiday at Haggerston Castle, near Berwick, and came down for the show.

● It had been quite a while since I visited the Chuck Wagon CMC (Alnwick) so I was delighted to find myself in that vicinity on the night they were playing host to Nashville Fever, a band who I always find give a super performance. At first Colin, Ali, Roy and Ken looked rather out of place in the grand splendour of the Olympia Ballroom in the White Swan Hotel where the spotlights were chandeliers and the stage hardly big enough for

their equipment but they had certainly gained some more new fans by the end of the night. Hope the same happens for them in America this month. Their song-writing talents and music should be well received. The Chuck Wagon CMC has joined forces with 'Back To The Past Music' of Alnwick to present monthly shows, sometimes country and sometimes sixties music.

● It is with considerable sadness that I acknowledge the retirement because of ill-health of that grand lady of country music from the north of this region, Margaret Trotter, secretary of the Border CMC, Berwick. She fittingly officially announces her retirement on the occasion of the club's tenth anniversary, and although I will be unable to be there I would personally like to thank her for all the help and support she has given me since I began writing this column, for all her monthly reports which never fail to arrive either by post or telephone and for just being one of the nicest people in country music—sincere good health and good wishes for the future Margaret. I hope your successor keeps up your very good standards of efficiency.

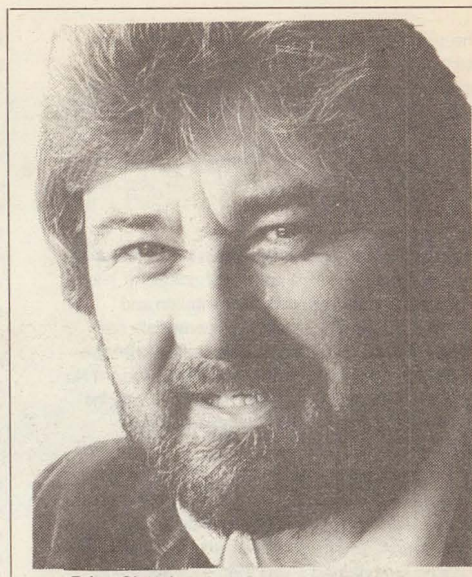
● A last-minute cancellation by Collier-Dixon Line found the Border CMC well entertained by local band, Cody and solo Art Marshall.

● Like everyone else, country music people in this region were stunned at the news of the failure of the Grantham Jamboree and the fact that this publication might be lost; so with this in mind Brian Clough, presenter of the 'Friday Night Country Crowd' on Great North Radio organised a CMRU show, at Shiney Row SC and featured the Sonia Anne Band and Andy Brown, who gave their services free of charge. Raffles, auctions and donations (including one from the committee of Shiney Row SC) all helped. Thanks to the committee, to the artists who took part, to John and Ellen Green, Ian Whitelaw and to Brian for their support. Monthly shows are going to be held at this club on Monday evenings.

● Raymond Froggatt and his band brought their brand of originality to the theatre show at Gateshead Leisure Centre when once again they played to a capacity audience . . . meanwhile on the local club scene, a 'new' band Texicana recently played the Triple 'C' CMC, Wallsend, and the Gunfighters CMC, Jarrow, where their performance featuring mainly standards and older material was well received. The lead singer of Texicana, Mick Leyton, is certainly not new to the North East country club circuit, having been around as long as I have though he has less hair! Many years ago he played with one of the few country bands who were around at that time, 'Hawaiian Meets Country', now who else can remember them?

● The Pete Naden Band produced an excellent show on a recent visit to the Gunfighters CMC.

● The Double 'B' at the Broadway Ballroom, Pelaw.



Brian Clough

report a change of policy regarding the booking of acts and bands will now appear on a regular basis. This is definitely the place to go if you enjoy Western line dancing.

● The Country Gentlemen were the guests at the regular monthly charity show at Kibblesworth WMC where they were well received.

Country Music ROUND UP

HIGHLAND COUNTRY

By Ann Carmody, 56 Kilmuir Road, Inverness IV3 6EP. Tel. 0463 221268.



Nicky James

Photo: Jim Silverthorn

● No shortage of good country music in the Highlands over the past few weeks due mainly to the numerous acts imported for Inverness Country and Western Club's Festival, which was a fantastic success (being one of the organising team for this event I feel inhibited about reporting on it, but there was nobody else around to do it this year). Once again the John C. King Family Band took the show by storm especially with their very visual performance of 'The Ballad Of Rab McDunn' using a piper in full regalia and smoke bombs. I can confidently state that of the eighteen different acts appearing over the weekend every one was very well received for their particular show.

● Irishman Seamus McGee and his band worked the area for a few days and strengthened the already good reputation he had from a short tour a few months ago. Seamus has a good voice, is a brilliant front man backed by a very tight band.

● Footloose from N. Ireland spent three weeks touring Scotland and added many more fans to their already large following. A very versatile show combined with the ability to read the audience makes them winners everywhere.

● Just Two from Londonderry spent two weeks in these parts with their down to earth brand of country, excellent guitar work from Frank Robinson and Ray Jordan's authentic country voice pleased the audiences wherever they appeared.

● From Somerset came the young but very talented duo West 'n' Elliot. My own personal view but I think a view now shared by many in this area, that these two

have a great future in country music, such talent just cannot go for long unnoticed. Unfortunately the Elliot half took unwell and had to return home early but Alan West finished the tour solo, coping with the situation admirably.

● Yorkshire based Nicki James was holidaying in the area for a few days but was persuaded to let us hear his talents; we were most impressed, look forward to him returning for a short tour later in the year!

● The Pete Naden Band paid a flying visit and were as always quite brilliant. Also on a short visit came Ben Rees with his band, musically excellent, they offer high entertainment value.

● On the Highlands home front I understand Elgin based Tracey and the Texas Dreamers have decided to call it a day. A pity as I felt that they were well on their way to making something of a name for themselves.

● The now defunct Welsh trio, Country Company's behaviour at one venue on their recent tour left a lot to be desired—apparently they arrived, decided that they did not like the look of the venue and departed without even talking to the proprietor who waited their arrival all evening, and he didn't get as much as a telephone call from the band to say what they had done, although I do believe that they have since talked with the hotelier and have agreed to compensate him for his loss. I feel I would like to add that other acts who have appeared at the venue have enjoyed a good reception.

● This month sees Firewater, Art Marshall and Out Of Hand visiting the Highlands. As always your local news, views and comments are welcome.

Country Music ROUND UP

SCOTS SCENE

By Jackie Blair, 122 Brunton Gardens, Edinburgh EH7 5ET.

● Brigitte Lyell of the Stagecoach C&W Club has come up with a great idea, and compiled a book titled 'A World of Country Music and Dance in Scotland'. The book contains the programmes of most of the country clubs throughout Scotland, along with the person to contact about the club. Brigitte tells me that it's thanks to the sponsorship of Danny's Country Store and West Coast Promotions that she was able to have the book printed and sent out to all the clubs involved.

● The Supertruck Scotland '89 Exhibition held at Knockhill Stadium featured two days of country music including visits from Liverpool's Kevin Daniels Band and I hear Johnston's Yellow Rose CMC celebrated American Independence Day with a full day's country music featuring Route 65 and Country Blues.

● I'm told Raymond Froggatt will be making his rare Scottish appearance, at the Hamilton Town Hall on Thursday (November 16th) courtesy of the Ranch House C&W Club who normally meet in the British Legion, Larkhall on Fridays.

● I paid my first visit to the Texas Rangers CMC since they moved to Penicuik's Navaar House Hotel and what a great welcome I was given. The entertainment that

evening was provided by Country Company from Wales. Clive and Sandra were joined on stage by giant bass player Bob King from Kilmarnock, and they had the dance floor packed. Club Pressy Bill Templeton relates that the numbers have increased since their move.

● Radio 5 singing DJ Tommy Truesdale has another 'string to his bow' writing a column for the local paper—The Ayrshire World, in which he reviews the new country records and provides details on local gigs. More news on Tommy: he's got a new cassette out on the Scotdisc label wherein he's included 16 of his stage favourites.

● I have received a copy of Tom Lee's cassette 'This Is Not Me' and in my opinion it's possibly the best country tape I have ever received from a British artist. Recorded at Philip Anderson's PA Sound Studio in Fife, it offers six original tracks by Tom and Philip, two by pedal steel player Willie Gamble, plus Bruce Springsteen's 'Wreck On The Highway' and Lindisfarne's 'King Cross Blues'. Other musicians on the tape are Billy Peace (piano) and Mackie Sutherland (fiddle).

● I note that Penville CMC had a recent visit from Blackpool's Pete Naden Band to their Countryside Inn Headquarters. No details on the success or otherwise of



Route 65

this one . . . whilst the Tucson CMC's bands for July were Route 65, Gerry and Country Pride, Footloose and Rambling Fever. It was Rambling Fever's first visit to the club and they went over very well.

● Finally, I was unable to attend the Inverness Club's

Festival but I hear it went very well both in attendance and organization.

● That's all for this month folks. If you have any news or views on the country music don't forget we can't print it if we don't know about it!

● The month opened quietly, not many known acts toured this region, although things brightened up towards the latter end. I enjoyed the sounds of West Virginia at Hartlepool's Iona Club. Their versions of 'Life Turned Her That Way', 'Burning Bridges' and a lively 'Send My Body Home On A Freight Train' appealed to me. Their new album is due out about now, including a remix of Froggies 'Teach Me'.

● Lingdale Social Club (closed again since) featured the irrepressible Phil Lloyd and his Shack Band. Nice blend of old and new, good instrumentation and powerful vocal/harmonies that I still personally rate amongst the finest in Britain, but they failed to inspire much response here. For my part a stunning 'You Are No Angel' and magical 'It Won't Hurt' stood out from the excellent bill of fayre served up by this talented Yorkshire bunch.

● It is always difficult for any solo act using just a voice and guitar to hold an audience. Even harder when the soloist is a female, in a basically male dominated domain. Bearing this in mind, it shows the quality of a sultry young lady named T. Jay Martin for achieving perfect order from a generally noisy Tuesday night gathering at Marskes Zetland Hotel. A gutsy singer with bags of personality who we should hear more of.

● Took in Applejack's appearance at the Zetland (Friday) where I was delighted to learn the potential within this trio has been appreciated by big Tony Best. My night was made complete when Jo-Ann told me she was staying with the act. Applejack continue to improve each time I see them and should, under the TBL guidance, continue to climb the ladder of success.

● The main event in this area during the month was the Lyme Park Country Music Festival, a two-day weekend event organized by Angela Stead of Lyme Park on behalf of Stockport MBC with the assistance of High Lane and Hazel Grove CMCs. The festival had reached its fourth year and once again presented a mouthwatering package of country entertainment selected from some of the quality bands who play the national country music circuit. The opening Saturday evening show came close to disaster due to a mainline power failure 30 minutes before the show was due to start, which resulted in a power surge and the damage of equipment once the electrics were restored. A team of audio technic experts beavered between each set to carry out emergency repairs to enable each of the three acts to present their sets. Ian Ashcroft and festival compere Charlie Teece made sure that the evening contained no blank spots. Show openers Medicine Bow gave a great show of their talent and left the well filled marquee shouting for more. The young but well respected Cross Country followed with a dynamic set much to the delight of their supporters before well-loved American visitors Pinto Bennett and The Famous Motel Cowboys socked it . . . and rocked it . . . to them to bring the opening night to a close.

● The following morning saw me and assistant stage manager Jimmy Renshaw on site very early checking to ensure there were no further hitches; and the Sunday afternoon show started on time. Phil Lloyd and Shackband providing a superb set spiced with good humour and an excellent choice of material taken from their club show. Memphis Roots too drew their show from their club routine and showed why they are so popular on the circuit. CMRU's Band Of The Year led by Stu Page, as expected, stormed the festival, underlining

● Stone Creek introduced the new Rev. D. Waxfletter (alias ex Mal Carson Trucking Co. drummer Ken Currans) to the parishioners of Coulby Newhams Parkway Social Club. I'm not sure what the Parkways members thought of this unusual presentation of C.M. but their appreciation of the musicianship, vocal harmonies and across the board material of the Creek boys was readily identifiable by their very attentive attitude. Disappointing to see attendances have dropped since my last visit to this lovely venue, now only averaging around the 130 mark.

● Mick Sugar was in irresistible form as those Bradford renegades Dillinger played to another very receptive and appreciative Parkway audience. The music, as always, raw and vibrant from a progressive group who habitually stamp their own individual flair and artistry on everything they do. And yes, they still have cassettes on sale (for three pounds fifty).

● The termination of my good lady's weekly night school course has enabled me to renew my acquaintances with Jimmy Briddick and his Cycling Club members. It was also good to see T. P. Stubbs fronting his (new) Bar Room Band, following his lengthy health problems. A bouncy opening set of known but not overdone numbers they also featured some nice pedal steel from David 'Pretty Boy' Langden. A little more lift and drive from the band would have enhanced their performance on this showing, although perhaps it is early days.

● Caught Nashville Fever's visit before they jetted off for a working tour of the USA, a fitting reward for years of hard graft. 'Cajun Stripper', 'Crime Of Passion' and 'One Step Forward, Two Steps Back' my particular

their status, to bring a wonderful afternoon session to a close.

● The evening session started on time with no sign of any dreaded gremlins. Show openers The Brazil Band set the mood of the evening and did credit to both themselves and the festival. Then came the wonder of Nashville Fever who had the fans on their feet shouting for more. The question on my mind was 'how can anyone follow that'. It was soon answered by Raymond Froggatt and his Band. Frog is the master of his stage, he knew what his fans wanted, and he delivered to gain a massive standing ovation. Then it was all over for another year. (Special mention must go to Cloud One Sound and Prism Lighting for their first class efforts, and the Lyme Park Committee for making it possible.)

● This reporting month was filled with a great personal sadness for me with the death of my mother; but I guess death is the only certain outcome of life, so on we go. Caught Keith Goslin and Durangos full club show at Gracelands CMC and came away well entertained. Club organiser Irene is hoping for better things at her Parkside Social Club Bramhall venue. Check it out on the back page and lend support.

● I've had more than enough requests to pay a visit to Carringtons Club in Salford who are featuring country music weekly on a Wednesday, so I went along to see Roger Humphries outfit, the club is comfortable but their format is more nightclub than country music club with the band going on at 10 pm for their first set, then again after midnight. I thought I was in London when I ordered a pint of shandy, still the club was pretty well supported and it's burns on seats that count!

● The weather was hot and sticky so I thought that it might be a good idea to join the holidaymakers at

CLEVELAND/DURHAM

By Keith Render, 21 Scanbeck Drive, Markes-By-Sea TS11 7AU. Tel. 0642 476509.

Country Music
ROUND UP

favourites of two hard driving sets from the UK's number one honky tonk styled Bar Room band . . . I saw the Brett Band incorporating a host of well known songs in two laid back spots, that became rather monotonous as the night wore on. A lack of personality didn't help and the omission of rhythm guitar left a void in the overall instrumental sound.

● North East club secretaries C.M. act of the year award winners Lemon Grass produced an electrifying opening set at Middlesbro's Dormans Athletic Club. Just listen to their vocal/harmonies on 'Streets O Bakersfields', 'The Other Side Of The Hill', 'I've Been Looking For Someone To Be All Mine' and the powerful New Grass Revival number 'Ho About You (Making Do)' then you will get some inkling as to why these lads are proving popular everywhere they play.

● Idaho's Pinto Bennett and his Famous Motel Cowboys pick up this month's star tag for their sparkling instrumental performance at Dormans. Mark 'Sergio' Webb showed incredible touches on 6 and 12 string guitars, closely followed by fellow lead guitarist Robbie Matson, as they consistently and delightfully tossed lead breaks from one to the other. 'Big' Jim Lemmons contribution on bass was top drawer stuff and a good voice to match. The undoubted highlight for me,

however, was the percussion work of Joe Dow who produced the sweetest sounding drum support I've ever heard, certainly music to my ears. Overall, an excellent all round performance that never really set the woods afire.

● I attended a special show at Hartlepool's Catholic Club, courtesy of Joan Oakley and Bob Clemments, featuring Nicki Dee, Dave Watson and Lemon Grass. A good night, in enjoyable company with some good music, what more could one want. Lemon Grass are hoping to have their debut cassette released shortly with a single to be culled from it for promotional work. At the time of writing, tracks to be included are still undecided.

● News thin on the ground this month from elsewhere in the region. Short and sweet from Jennifer Robson. Cross Country and Nashville Fever both gave great shows at Bowburns Crowtree Social Club, local band Apache packed them in at Crooks Farrers Arms . . . From Betty Emery, Carolina put on a fab show at Lanchesters Outlaws CMC, lead vocalist Veronica Capaldi in fine voice. West Virginia played to a good house, immaculate as ever. Wells Fargo replaced Gambler with Lead guitar and fiddle players on top form. That's it, TTFN.

NORTH WEST

By Brian Ahern, 11 Villdale Avenue, Stockport SK2 5SQ. Tel. 061 483 9532.

Country Music
ROUND UP

Morecambe, even if it was just for a night out. Frontier Land was my destination. The seafront bar was well full when I arrived, the attraction was Michael James from America who is a country music one-man band and a dam good entertainer which was proven by his cassette sales (check this guy out) he performs the covers that please the crowd. I also called into The Crazy Horse at the back of the complex to have a look at Johnny Blue Band performing at the Morecambe Raiders CMC. This band are big local favourites with their own brand of music. Two venues in the same complex presenting country music on the same night, both very well attended to boot, any comment?

● The world being my oyster I strayed over the border to The Rocky Top at Clowne, near Chesterfield, with a couple of muso buddies, well it really was at the invite of club organiser Barry Smallie 'to get my ass over the big hill' to see Belinda Bowler open her UK tour. When I arrived Nottinghamshire's own Rhyman Country were giving a good account of themselves. This little known American lady performed the middle section of the show which proved to be something of a delight. She's a great picker and a cracking singer, who specialises in meaningful songs, given the few breaks this lady could become a big star (she's really talented).

● See you around the county and around the country, don't know when, but you can bet I will.



— Rhyman Country —



● Hi there! Since my last report I've managed to cover a fair bit of ground, had a fantastic holiday doing the rounds visiting country music clubs in Cornwall and Devon etc. Must say thanks to Veronica and Brian, Evesham CMC, for making my stay so welcome.

● Full house signs were in order when Stu Page and the Stu Page Band got the ball rolling at Jim Beams CMC, Great Clifton, they pleased the audience with good country standards intermixed with Stu's self-penned numbers. The words of Stu's own song 'We're just a country band, nothing special, nothing grand' not true, Stu, they don't believe that at Clifton; to them you are special and grand.

● A smaller than usual crowd at Triple C CMC, Westfield, Workington, to listen to the music of Lemon

Grass, who didn't seem to notice the attendance, they got on with the job and provided an enjoyable night of country music.

● Those in the know informed me Joe E. Hamilton and High Chapparel were a knockout at Stocksman CMC, Wigton. Support came from solo set Mike Grace, who impressed Joe so much he requested Mike to return for his next appearance in the not too distant future. Joe's also now performing Mike's self penned number 'My Son'.

● I visited Langley Hall CMC, Corby Hill, Carlisle, for my first sighting of the revived Borderline, a local four piece band comprising Crag Duggan, guitar and vocals, Dave Midgley, guitar, steel and vocals, Garry Broad, bass, and Phil Cookm drums. I was pleasantly surprised and enjoyed their mix of music, which included songs made popular by Merle Haggard, Don Gibson, the Eagles,

CUMBRIA REPORT

By Enid Thompson, 'Carita,' Scales, Aspatria, Carlisle. Tel. 0965 20929.

Country Music
ROUND UP

Randy Travis, etc; all delivered with ease. I particularly liked their version of 'Deep Water'. They have a nice cassette on sale, entitled 'At The Borderline'.

● They could have done with more fans attending the charity do at Jim Beams CMC, Great Clifton, compere Tony O'Reilly introduced Applejack. This popular trio is now signed to Tony Best Leisure Promotions on Personal Management. It's encouraging to see youngsters involved in country music and involved they are! Being one of the best new acts I've seen in a long time. The beautiful harmonies of Becky and Jo-Ann and the fine added vocals of Kevin, whose quick to mix the wit and humour. Their material includes traditional and modern country music with a liking for Emmylou material performed to perfection. Listen out for 'Wayfaring Stranger', 'When I Dream', 'Sweet Dreams' and 'When I Gain Control Again' from the girls and 'Old Dogs and Children' and 'Trilogy' from Kevin. They also now have a cassette for sale entitled 'Broken Lady'. Kevin, Becky and Jo-Ann should have a good future in country music.

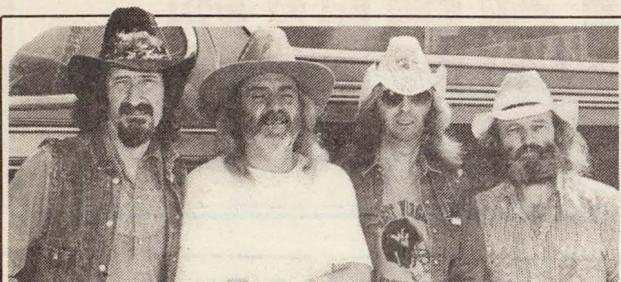
● A full house is proof of the popularity of the award winning duo Bob Newman and Carole Gordon, paying their third visit to Harrington WMC. A smooth polished performance with a good variety of songs, leaning more to the MOR material on this night. I'd highlight such

numbers as 'Sometimes When We Touch' and 'I Fell In Love Again Last Night'. They also featured tracks from their latest recording available on CD 'Double Knot'.

● Lemon Grass seem quite chuffed to be releasing an EP, backing local radio country DJ Stan Laundon. The four sings were all recorded at Lemon Grasses own studio, Wigton, Cumbria. All proceeds will go to Guide Dogs For The Blind Association.

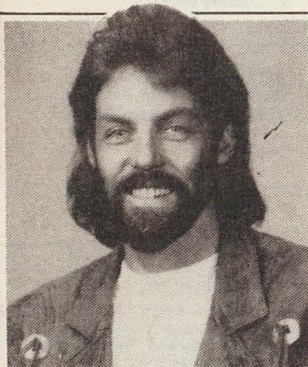
● The Gin Band, a five piece from the Birmingham area, arrived at Cactus Jacks, Workington BL. They pleased most of the crowd, most of the time. I'd give them full marks for presentation, with four lead vocalists, some nice keyboard and clever steel guitar numbers, but one or two in the audience thought their performance lacked sparkle and another criticism I heard was the introductions were a bit too lengthy, but as the night wore on they injected some modern material into their act. I thought this helped a lot but you can't please everyone all the time!

● That's the round up for this month, as always you can contact me with your news, views or abuse, don't forget your local clubs and remember, 'It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice'. Thanks for your time.



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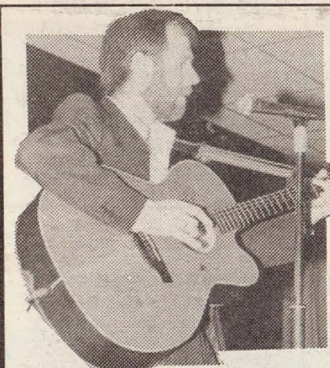
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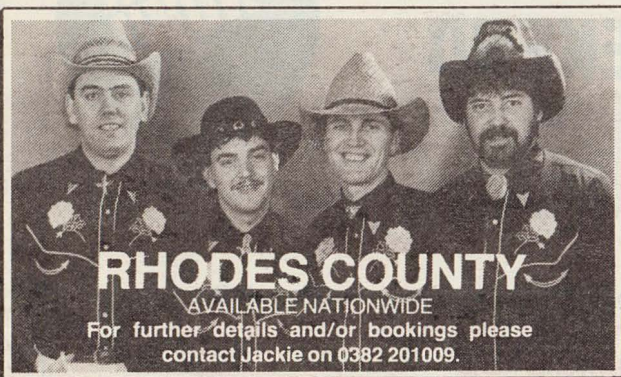
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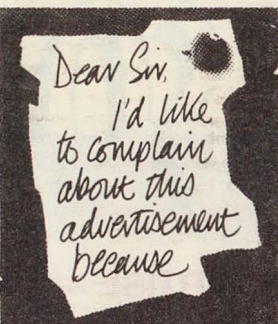
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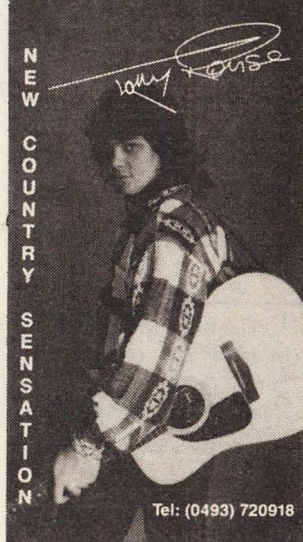
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CMRU CLUB SCENE

PREVIEW

PONDEROSA CWC

The Pine Mine, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk. Fridays.
1 Laurie Pepper Band
8 21st Anniversary
Tony Collins and Bakersfield
15 Whiskey and Lace
22 Clovis
29 Dave Sheriff and Nicki Clarke

COLCHESTER CMC

Woods Leisure Centre. First and third Thursdays.
7 Clovis
21 Tracy Eldson and Ashanti

CADES COUNTY CMC

Shireoaks MW, Shireoaks, Nr. Worksop, Notts. Every Friday
1 Madison County
8 15th Anniversary Night — John J. Paul and the Lincoln County Recipe
15 Dillinger
22 Ryman Country Band
29 Don Allan Trio

DOUBLE K

Hotel Embassy, Newbridge, Dumfries. Sundays.
17 Les Close Band plus John Aston

YORK CMC

York City Arms Sports Club, Fawcett Street, York. Thursdays.
7 Stroller
14 Bob Allison Duo
21 Collier Dixon Line
28 Prediction

WELCOME CMC

Leigh Harriers Athletic Club, Charles Street, Leigh, Lancs. Sundays.
3 Les Close Band
10 TBA
17 Collier Dixon Line
24 Kickin' The Dust

WILDWOOD SOUTH CMC

Millbrook School, Lower Brownhill Road, Maybush, Southampton. Saturdays.
2 Steve Mitchell and Shiloh
9 Stu Page Band
16 Westwood
23 Gerry Ford and the Ford Band
30 Stewart Bros and First Chapter

CACTUS JACKS

Workington British Legion. Last Friday in month.
30 Bill Conlan and Emerald

SILVERADO CMC

Salisbury Conservative Club, Badger Street, Bury, Lancs. Wednesdays.
6 Kenny Johnson and Northwind
13 Collier Dixon Line
20 Ben Rees Band
27 Cross Country

ABERDEEN CWC

The Hotel Metro, 17 Market Street, Aberdeen. Tuesdays.
5 Maggie and Tennessee Express
12 Firewater
19 TBA
26 The Duke Boys

YELLOW ROSE CWC

c/o Keanie Club, Auchenlodme Road, Johnstone, Renfrewshire. Sundays.
3 Route 65
10 Pinkerton Colours
17 TBA
24 Country Blues

WAYLAND CMA, Norfolk

Queens Hall, Watton. Saturdays.
16 Memphis Short and Grand Canyon
30 Spiral

STAGE DOOR CMC

North Heath Social Club, 8 Mill Road, Erith, Kent. Sundays.
3 Cheyenne Country Band
10 Steve Mitchell and Shiloh
17 Jeannie Laine and Tennessee Rain
24 Jeannie Sinclair

BORDER CMC

Black and Gold S.C., Shiffeld Park, Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed. Second Tuesday.
12 John C. King Family Band

FIGHTING COCK CMC

Monteney Crescent, Ecclesfield, Sheffield. Wednesday and Saturday
2 Gary Perkins
6 Terry Ewers
9 TBA
13 Russ Carlton
16 TBA
20 John Lowndes
23 TBA
27 Art Marshall
30 TBA

BRIDGEND REC CENTRE

Mid-Glamorgan.
15 Medicine Bow

TUCSON CMC

The Berry Suite, Abbey Lane, Edinburgh. Mondays.
4 Spill The Beans
11 Pinkerton Colours
18 John Hendry and Buzzard Creek
25 Rainbow County

HARROGATE LEISURE CENTRE

Beech Avenue (off Leeds Road), Harrogate. First Friday of month.
1 Randy Blue and Deepwater featuring Miss Bobby Wyatt
29 Raymond Froggatt in Concert

GO COUNTRY CLUB

Glaxo Sports and Social Club, Hamire Road, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. First Sunday.
3 Bob McKinlay Band

BREDBURY CMC

The Ratpit, Bents Lane, Bredbury, Stockport. Monthly.
9 The Kelly Band
17 Festival at 'Quaffers'. Stonecreek, Key West, Johnny Marks, Madison County, Medicine Bow, Ben Rees Band, Roger Humphries and Bite The Bullet.

LAZYACRE CMC

SHA Hospital Social Club, Racecourse Lane, Shrewsbury. Fortnightly.
4 Raymond Froggatt Band and Ida Red
5 Raymond Froggatt Band and Clearwater
18 Bill Conlan and Emerald
Dave Sherriff and Nicki Clarke
25 Gerry Ford and the Ford Country Band plus Shaun Michael
Res Host: Tony Best

HAZEL GROVE CMC

Reform Club, Napier Street, Hazel Grove, Stockport. Sundays.
3 Phil Brady and The Ranchers
9 SPECIAL (see sep listing)
10 No Club
17 Stroller
24 Harvey

HARROGATE CMC

Wetherby Road, Harrogate, North Yorks. Alternate Wednesdays.
13 Sidekick plus Sandy Rose
27 H. T. Hobos

ROSE AND CROWN, RUBERY

New Road, Birmingham. Sundays.
3 Steelwater Band
10 Brazil Band
17 Ramrods and Ian Lawson (ex Froggie)
24 Out Of Hand

OUTLAWS CMC

Lanchester Social, Newbiggin Road, Lanchester, Co. Durham. Saturdays.
2 Bob McKinlay Band
9 No Show
16 Kelvin Henderson Band
23 Bob Allison Band
30 Lindsey St John Band

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25 Toni Earl Country

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5 Firewater plus Tony Hughes
12 Gambler
19 Karen and Old Spice plus Art Marshall
26 Out Of Hand

HOYLAND CMC

Welcome Inn, Barber Street, Hoyland, Barnsley. Sundays.
3 B.C. and Lainey
10 Ohio
17 Nicky James
24 L. A. Riders

SOUTHERN STAR CWC

Racers Hotel, Whitlets Road, Ayr. Every Wednesday.
6 Country Pride
13 Lemon Grass
20 Legend
27 Stoneybroke

BIDDS CMC

Sutherland Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Saturdays.

2 Circuit Judge
9 Bobbie and Nashville Pride
16 Kelly Band
23 Dave McQueen and the Power Band
30 Dillinger

FORT WORTH CMC

Woking Football Club, Kingfield, Woking, Surrey. Fridays fortnightly.
8 Bob McKinlay Band
22 George Moody and Country Squires

HIGH LANE CMC

High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport. Saturdays.

2 Medicine Bow
3 All Day Event. Country Music/Bluegrass/Folk and Barbeque (12.30 to 11 pm).
9 SPECIAL (see sep listing)
16 Greta and The Stray Shots
23 Collier Dixon Line
30 Brazil Band

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17 Contraband
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23 Terry Sumson Show
24 Manson Grant and The Dynamos
29 Silver Sun
30 Duke Boys

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FOLLOWING last month's announcement that the British section of the 1989 CMRU Awards were to be incorporated into a special 'Weekend Break' to be arranged at Warners East Anglian Leisure Complex, Gunton Hall, near Lowestoft, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 24-26th November, 1989, much interest has been shown with the obvious question...

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